

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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ahead with a
homestead
project in Marpi?

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INSIDE



War Chest

President Barack Obama asks Congress for \$83.4 billion for U.S. military operations.

NATION...Page 10



OWWA Signup

Paul Madriaga starts online campaign reminding Filipinos in the CNMI to renew their OWWA membership.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



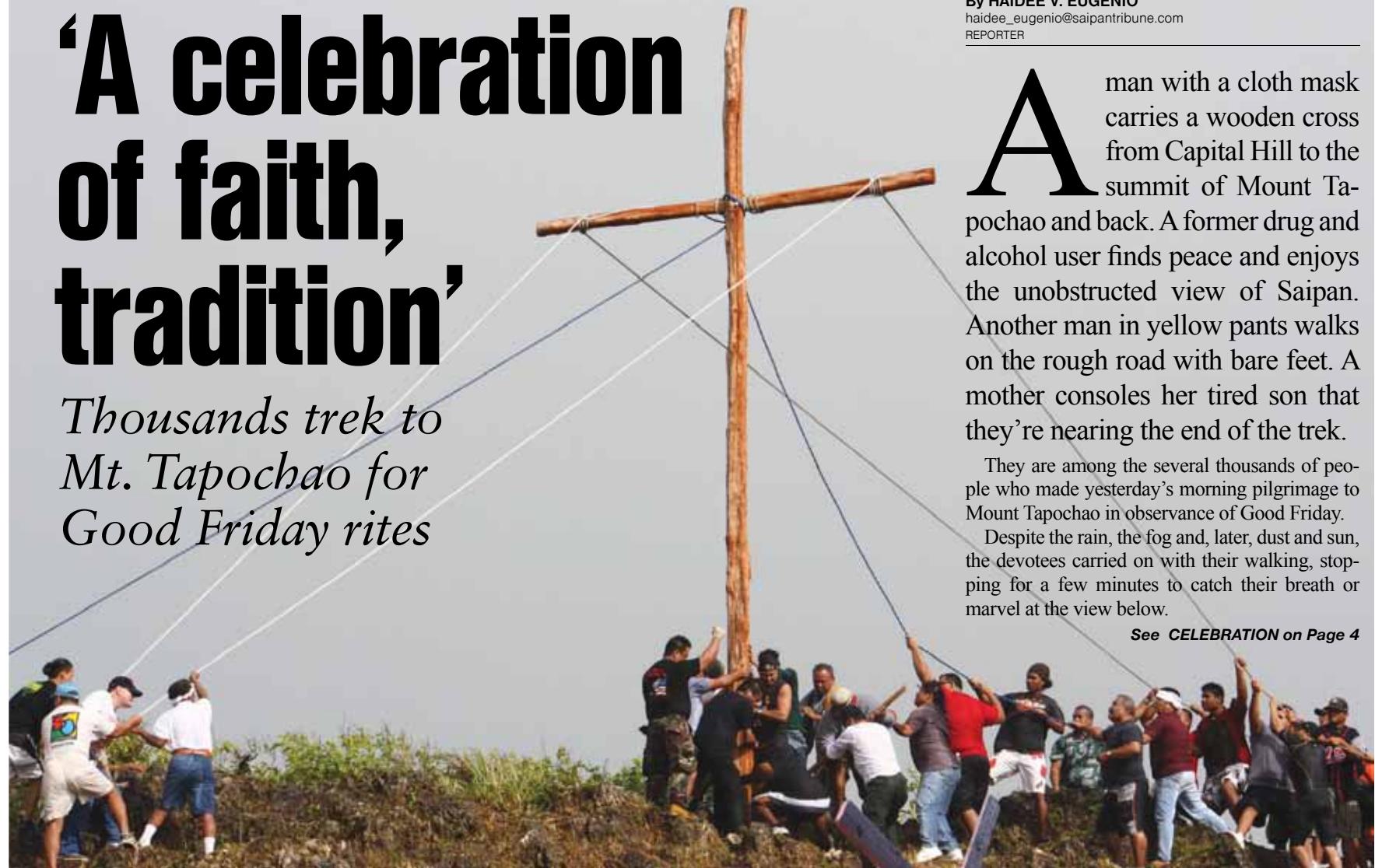
Spears Concert

The new and improved Britney Spears apparently isn't a fan of cigarette smoke while performing.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'A celebration of faith, tradition'

Thousands trek to Mt. Tapochao for Good Friday rites



HAIDE V. EUGENIO

Men from all walks of life help erect the replica of the Holy Cross on the summit of Mount Tapochao yesterday in observance of Good Friday, while people below watch. Inset, a man in a cloth mask carries a cross to re-enact the passion of Christ during yesterday's pilgrimage to Mount Tapochao.



Asian Pacific caucus lauds Obama plan for immigration

Millions of Asian immigrants could be affected

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus is applauding President Obama's push for immigration legislation, including a plan to make

legal status possible for an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants.

"We all know that the time has come to fix our broken immigration system," the Caucus said in a statement yesterday. "We need the tax revenues from

See CAUCUS on Page 4

'Rota staff used Rydlyme to clean toilet, chemical damaged Saipan engine parts'

the toilet, while on Saipan it was never used after the chemical damaged certain equipment in the power plant.

These came out during testimonies presented yesterday in the ongoing jury

See ROTA on Page 4

FACT CHECK

Do smokers cost society money?

By ERICA WERNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Smoking takes years off your life and adds dollars to the cost of health care. Yet nonsmokers cost society money, too—by living longer.

It's an element of the debate over tobacco that some economists and officials find distasteful.

House members de-



scribed huge health care costs associated with smoking as they approved landmark legislation last week giving the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco products. No one mentioned the additional costs to society of caring for a nonsmoking population that lives longer.

Supporters of the FDA bill cited figures from the Centers for Disease

See DO on Page 4

99 Cents doesn't believe it acted improperly. PAGE 2
Fiji's president abolishes constitution, fires judges. PAGE 5

Local

99 Cents doesn't believe it acted improperly

Yun's Corp. said yesterday it agreed to the filing of a consent decree with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission because it didn't want to get caught up in protracted litigation.

In a statement, it said that 99 Cents Supermarket, Yun's Inc. and Town Inc. have settled to

settle with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for \$80,000 on a lawsuit relating to sexual discrimination in the workplace.

The association is pushing for amendments to the existing procedure, including a slight lowering of the passing score for Praxis 2 and additional time for non-English native teachers so they could pass the exam. The members believe that consideration must also be given to veteran non-Highly Qualified Teachers who have proven themselves effective in the classroom.

According to ACT president Betty Miller, the meeting has been set for this coming week.

Of the more than 500 public

school teachers, 66 percent are considered HQT after passing the Praxis tests, completing a degree, and obtaining the valid teaching certificates.

Miller, in an earlier interview, said the policy change is not being proposed just by the group but also by a cross-section of teachers and educational professionals.

According to a report submitted to the board's fiscal and personnel affairs committee last year, different sample groups were tapped to ensure the recommendations are reflective of the entire educational community

"The local companies do not believe they acted improperly. However, the EEOC has such a deep financial backing and endless personnel, it is difficult for small companies like 99 Cents and Yun's to fight with the EEOC, so they settle. For

rather than just ACT members.

The survey, conducted last year, showed that majority of teachers want the current state plan for HQT amended in favor of creating uniform standards of evaluation. Alternatively, other ways could be found for teachers to demonstrate subject matter competence and meet HQT requirements, with proof consisting of teaching experience, professional development, and subject knowledge.

Many of the respondents said that PSS/BOE sets fair and reasonable scores for Praxis 1 test,

small companies like 99 Cents, it is best to pay some money and settle with the EEOC and then move along with business and serving customers," it said.

In order to avoid any EEOC actions in the future, 99 Cents said it will train its employees in

EEOC matters, and how to report and to prevent discrimination charges.

"99 Cents Supermarket, Yun's Inc. and Town Inc. remain committed to being equal opportunity employers," it added. (PR)

teachers' salary or step increases based on a teacher's good faith effort toward passing the test.

Salaries of non-HQT teachers were slashed due to non-compliance with the requirements. The new compensation plan provided a starting salary of \$27,000 for non-HQT up to \$47,000 for those who meet the maximum requirements.

ACT wants the BOE to recognize that the current CNMI plan for HQT is "incomplete as it lacks the critical component of input from those most impacted by such a plan—the teachers."

PSS, teachers' group set dialogue on HQT policy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System and the Association of Commonwealth Teachers have agreed to revisit the Highly Qualified Teachers' policy adopted by the PSS board.

According to ACT president Betty Miller, the meeting has been set for this coming week.

These requests have been sitting at the management and board committee levels for quite some time now.

Of the more than 500 public

while they agreed on the need to adjust the passing scores for Praxis 2. They also sought a 20-minute extension in time for ESL teachers who are taking the test.

Salaries of non-HQT teachers were slashed due to non-compliance with the requirements. The new compensation plan provided a starting salary of \$27,000 for non-HQT up to \$47,000 for those who meet the maximum requirements.

ACT wants the BOE to recognize that the current CNMI plan for HQT is "incomplete as it lacks the critical component of input from those most impacted by such a plan—the teachers."

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Ada cites CNMI investments, challenges in Hawaii conference

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tax benefits, strategic location, a U.S. legal protection and exemption from the Jones Act are among the CNMI advantages touted by Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada in his remarks before investors at the Fifth Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands held Monday in Honolulu.

"The CNMI possesses favorable tax benefits to firms operating in our jurisdiction, in addition to a strategic location to major Asian markets, as well as to our neighboring island of Guam, which will be experiencing an unprecedented economic and population growth thanks to the much anticipated military buildup," Ada told participants.

Ada led the CNMI team in the April 6-8 conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Interior, in an earlier statement, said the conference brought together some 500 participants who were briefed on possible businesses that may be explored in the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The potential investments focused on tourism, infrastructure development, and renewable energy solutions.

Ada said the CNMI's political union with the United States provides the legal protection of the U.S. to business transactions while availing of a close proximity to major non-U.S. markets.

"The CNMI's exemption from the Jones Act provides a favorable benefit for those firms engaged in commercial trade within our jurisdiction. A business-oriented government is actively engaging the private business sector in its efforts toward economic development and providing a favorable climate for investments," he added.

The Jones Act, or the U.S. Merchant Marine Act of 1920, requires goods transported between any two U.S. ports to be shipped on American flag vessels. The CNMI is not bound by this requirement. Thus, any foreign flag carrier, most of which have lower freight rates than those of American bottoms, can load cargo at any U.S. port and deliver that cargo to the CNMI.

Opportunities

Saipan, according to Ada, has been able to diversify its economy, from aquaculture to educational tourism, "and continues to be open to investments serving as a good fit for the community and the investor."

With the pristine beauty of Rota, eco-tourism opportunities exist, while gaming also serves as an emerging opportunity.

"With its recent designation as a U.S. national monument, the Northern Marianas Marine

National Monument is garnering worldwide attention for the CNMI, which presents significant opportunities for our much prized tourism industry," Ada said.

The Commerce secretary said Tinian is sought after for purposes of military engagement, but the gaming industry continues to be the mainstay.

"The three populated islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian present unique and promising investment opportunities, while our uninhabited islands present significant opportunities for resource extraction, research, and a tremendous potential for alternative energy production," he added.

Challenges

But while the CNMI has tremendous opportunities, these opportunities do not come without challenges.

Among these challenges is the impact of Public Law 110-229, which puts CNMI immigration under federal control but Ada said the CNMI is confident that careful consideration will be given to minimize its potential consequences.

The CNMI government has a pending lawsuit against the U.S. government over federalization.

Oil price increases and high costs associated with power production have also been compounded by infrastructure challenges. Ada said the government addressed the power crisis by securing temporary power production while at the same time rehabilitating its engines.

The CNMI will also leverage funding available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to reduce its reliance on fossil fuel and explore alternative energy sources, Ada added.

Second day

Tuesday's afternoon sessions consisted of presentations developed by the island delegations. These dedicated sessions, with each island jurisdiction having its own hour-long block, allowed island leaders to provide conference attendees with a deeper look at the variety of business opportunities and incentives for doing business on their islands.

The panel for the CNMI's session consisted of Ada, Lynn Knight, chairwoman of the Commonwealth Economic Development Commission, and Arthur Smith, president of Management Analysis Inc.

In her presentation, Knight said: "There has never been a more business friendly environment" in the CNMI, citing the recent work of Gov. Benigno Fitial and Ada.

Ada touted the 2009 CNMI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which provides a plan outlining critical economic development projects



Ada

Bordallo



Faleomavaega

Knight

Restoration Summit, which outlined four major industries that the CNMI will focus its efforts on developing: agriculture, aquaculture, edu-tourism and call centers.

Guam Lt. Gov. Michal Cruz, who was the keynote speaker, highlighted the important role the CNMI will play in ensuring that the Guam military buildup is successful.

"To emphasize the importance of the collaboration, Lt.

Gov. Cruz and Gov. Felix Camacho propose that the Guam military buildup be called the Marianas buildup. This proposal is very appropriate, as the impacts and opportunities will be felt throughout the entire Marianas region," Ada said.

The conference ended Wednesday, April 8, with a full day of business-to-business meetings facilitated by DOI staff, allowing attendees to meet individually to develop joint ventures and secure partnerships following the previous days of networking. Over 300 meetings were officially scheduled.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

**Head Start Policy Council
Agenda**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on April 16, 2009 (Friday) from 10:30am - 2:30 pm at Giovanni's Conference Room, Hyatt, Garapan.

I. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. March 20, 2009

II. Monthly Reports

1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance
4. Council Standing Committees
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Education
 - c. Executive
 - d. Finance
 - e. Public Relations

III. New Business

1. Action Items
 - a. Approvals:
 - a1. FY 2009-2010 Grant Budget Application
 - a2. Personnel Committee Recommendations

IV. Old Business

1. Tabled Item
 - a. Approval
 - a1. Finance Committee Recommendations

V. Executive Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

Mr. Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

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DO**From Page 1**

Control and Prevention that smokers cost the country \$96 billion a year in direct health care costs, and an additional

\$97 billion a year in lost productivity. A White House statement supporting the bill, which awaits action in the Senate, echoed the argument by contending that tobacco use "accounts for over a \$100 billion annually in financial costs to the economy."

ROTA**From Page 1**

trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his two co-defendants, James V. Santos and his wife, Joaquina Santos.

The prosecution called to the witness stand Rota CUC plant manager David S. Atalig, former Tinian CUC power plant assistant plant manager Jesus Pangelinan Cruz, and Saipan CUC mechanic Stanley Techur.

During direct examination by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Atalig said he did not request for Rydlyme and that the chemical was never used on the Rota power engines.

Atalig said some employees only used the Rydlyme to clean the toilet.

Shown some pictures, the power plant manager recognized them as photos of a big drum of Rydlyme and several other 55-gallon drums of the chemical inside a container in their power plant compound. Another showed three 55-gallon containers sitting outside an old generator in the power plant compound.

Atalig said when typhoon Pongsoma struck the island, a big container of Rydlyme was punctured and the chemical was spilled.

During cross examination by David J. Lujan, lawyer for Villagomez, Atalig reiterated that some employees were using Rydlyme to clean the plant's toilet bowl.

Atalig agreed with Lujan that he does not remember how long the drums of Rydlyme have been stored in the container and sitting outside the old generator.

Atalig said he did not request for Rydlyme, but consented that he has no knowledge whether his deputy manager asked for the chemical. Normally, the manager said, he makes such requests from Saipan CUC.

Shown two purchase orders for 1,000 gallons each of Rydlyme dated April 27, 1998, and Aug. 3, 1998, Atalig said he is not aware of the orders. Each purchase order was worth \$35,000, for a total of \$70,000 for Rota.

Atalig said he believes Rydlyme to be a very good product for removing buildup in radiators of power engines.

Later, under questioning by O'Malley, Atalig said while Rydlyme is a good product, in his opinion it should not be used on Rota because it's an old unit and if the chemical is used, leaks could result.

The witness admitted there are leaks in their engines, but he considers them not significant enough. He said he has never seen Rydlyme being applied to

However, smokers die some 10 years earlier than nonsmokers, according to the CDC, and those premature deaths provide a savings to Medicare, Social Security, private pensions and other programs.

Vanderbilt University economist Kip

Viscusi studied the net costs of smoking-related spending and savings and found that for every pack of cigarettes smoked, the country reaps a net cost savings of 32 cents.

"It looks unpleasant or ghoulish to look at the cost savings as well as the

cost increases and it's not a good thing that smoking kills people," Viscusi said in an interview. "But if you're going to follow this health-cost train all the way, you have to take into account all the effects, not just the ones you like in terms of getting your bill passed."

CAUCUS**From Page 1**

immigrants already working in our country who want to contribute. We need to make sure families are able to stay together, including families with U.S.-born children. We need fair and practical solutions to make immigration work for our nation, our economy, and our families. We are gratified that President Obama has signaled his intention to begin this important debate in the coming weeks."

A White House official was recently quoted in *The New Times*, saying

Obama plans on addressing the immigration issue within the year. He is expected to speak publicly about the issue next month and convene working groups over the summer, for possible legislation in the fall, according to the article.

Currently, according to CAPAC, there are 1.5 million undocumented immigrants from Asia, as well as 2 million Asians waiting in the family-based visa backlog.

Immigration is a hot topic in the Commonwealth, as the Northern Marianas prepares for the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which will extend U.S. Immigra-

tion laws to the CNMI. The law will go into effect Nov. 28. The Department of Homeland Security has yet to release the regulations relating to foreign workers, investors, students and retirees.

Questions relating to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens remain, and, as it is right now, some legal residents of the Commonwealth who do not have a valid U.S. visa will not be able to re-enter the CNMI if they must leave for a medical emergency or other reason.

"Fundamental to the Immigration and Naturalization Act, and the president has made this statement public in our last meeting with him, Speaker

[Nancy] Pelosi has made this, fundamental to Immigration and Naturalization Act in the United States is they unite families and not separate them, and unless something is done about the way they are going to implement the federalized immigration system in the Northern Marianas, we could be separating families in two years," said CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, adding he is doing everything he can to make sure this does not happen.

Sablan has called on DHS to create visas for immediate relatives.

There are also more than 300 permanent residents in the CNMI who have

lived here for more than 27 years, the congressman noted.

However, he said, he is not proposing a path to citizenship for everybody, just those who would be eligible at the time.

Last month, more than 1,500 U.S. citizen children of foreign workers, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, long-term guest workers and others in the community wrote personal letters to members of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, asking for an improved immigration status for themselves and their families once the transition to federal immigration begins.

CELEBRATION**From Page 1**

Each of the trekkers had a reason for joining the annual pilgrimage—whether it was for the atonement of sins, to celebrate the Catholic faith, continue a tradition, or simply enjoy the exhilarating view from the top and an early morning walk with people from all walks of life.

James Alex, 20, said he used to live a life of alcohol, drugs and violence but he has changed for the better. He said he's proud to complete his first trek to Mount Tapochao on Good Friday, along with his aunt, Andrea Wishim, 24, and another young relative.

"This is part of being good again. I'm really proud of coming up here and I think it will help erase some of my sins. I used to be a bad person," he told *Saipan Tribune* as he marveled at the view of the Saipan lagoon from the peak.

Mount Tapochao is the highest point on Saipan at 1,545 feet. It offers an amazing 360-degree view of the island, which is only about the size of San Francisco, California, but is slightly

larger than Hong Kong.

Alex said he enjoyed the walk and will join the trek again next year. "My grandma also told me about this," the Northern Marianas College student added.

Reenactment of the passion of Christ

One of the highlights of the Good Friday rites to Saipan's highest peak is the carrying of a replica of the Holy Cross by a group of men from the base of the mountain to the top—but without the self-flagellation done in the Philippines and other countries—to commemorate the life and passion of Christ. The CNMI is a predominantly Catholic community.

Other devotees prayed and sang as the cross was carried to the top.

Negotiating the rocky and slippery hillside to bring the cross to the summit was a spectacle in itself. After reaching the summit, a group of men held the ropes from opposite sides of the cross, making sure the cross does not slip as they try to stabilize it and "plant" it. When it was done, people below cheered and clapped.

One of those who have been helping to

carry the cross every year for at least the last 10 years is Bill Camacho, 49. "This is to praise the Lord. He died for our sins. This is also part of our culture. This is a very important tradition," he said.

His wife, Marie Sapong, 46, said she's a Christian Protestant and yesterday was her first time to join her husband to the Good Friday pilgrimage. "I'm a believer. This is my first time to join this and I'm touched with the reenactment of the passion of Christ. This motivates people. I will come here again next year," she said.

George Moses, 48, said in the years he has been going to Mount Tapochao, he has seen greater participation by younger people. "This is part of our religious belief. More young people are coming and it's not a dying tradition. It's getting better," he said.

His 7-year-old granddaughter Candy Santos said she woke up at 6am to join her grandfather and other relatives in the trek. "I enjoyed the walking," she said.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela estimated at least 2,000 people but said almost the same number has already gone back home because they started walking early.

"I thank people for participating in the Good Friday walk. It's one of the biggest religious events on Saipan but it doesn't matter whether you're a Catholic or not. And today, there's not much sun, people got wet from the rain but everybody's okay," he said.

Every year, the office of the mayor cleans up the road leading to Mount Tapochao about a month before Good Friday.

Free water, food

The side of the road leading to the mountaintop was lined with tents set up by different private groups and agencies to provide free water, coffee, bread, fruits, boiled eggs, congee and other food items to devotees.

Regardless of who is in power, the Office of the Governor is always the first tent to greet devotees with their fruits and drinks.

Gubernatorial candidates Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and his running mate, Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, and their supporters also set up a tent to provide free water to everyone.

"First, I own the property, and second, there are at least 4,000 people

walking here (needing water). We've been here since 3am and that time, there were already people coming down," said Guerrero.

Camacho, for his part, said even before they sought public office, they have been helping devotees on their trek to the mountaintop.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter gathered at least 14 volunteers ready to provide first aid services if and when needed.

"Red Cross has been doing this for a long time. We provide water and we're ready with first aid kits but thankfully, nobody needed it," said Juan Diego Tenorio, emergency services director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

Chris Tenorio of Jets Holdings said providing free bottled water is their company's way of giving back to the community. At least 20 employees helped out in the company program.

Other groups that also provided free drinks and food were the United Filipino Organization, CNMI Power Corp. and Bicol Association, with the help of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects.

Fiji's president abolishes constitution, fires judges

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fiji's president assumed control Friday and fired the judges who a day earlier had declared the military government illegal, deepening the troubled South Pacific country's political turmoil.

President Ratu Josefa Iloilo announced in a nationally broadcast radio address that he had abolished the constitution, assumed all governing power and revoked all judicial appointments.

"I hereby confirm I have abrogated the 1997 constitution and appointed myself as head of state in the new order," Iloilo said in the address.

The move came one day after the country's second-highest court ruled that armed forces chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama's government that took power after a 2006 coup was illegal, effectively creating a power vacuum.

In response, Bainimarama went on national television to announce he had met Iloilo and told him he was relinquishing the prime minister's post. He said the armed forces would continue to enforce security.

Observers said Friday's announcement by the aged and ailing Iloilo had the stamp of Bainimarama, and that the measures he announced appeared to prepare the way for the president to reappoint Bainimarama as prime minister.

"It looks like a prepared statement by Bainimarama, delivered by Iloilo," Rod Alley, a senior fellow at New Zealand's Center for Strategic Studies, told The Associated Press. "This is extraordinary and doesn't look good for Fiji."

Iloilo said he would appoint an interim prime minister soon.

"You cannot have a country without a government," he said. "The machinery of government must continue."

Under the constitution, Fiji's president has a mostly ceremonial role as head of state and governing power is held by an elected prime minister and cabinet.

Iloilo also said Fiji would



In this file photo from July 18, 2000, shown is Fiji's President Ratu Josefa Iloilo after he took an oath during the swearing in ceremony at Borron House in Suva.

hold elections in 2014.

The date of those elections—which are supposed to restore democracy—has been a sore point both domestically and internationally since Bainimarama seized power in December 2006—the country's fourth coup in 20 years.

Bainimarama has long promised elections but has balked at setting a timetable, saying he would overhaul the constitution and electoral laws first—a process likely to take years.

Bainimarama has been under intense international pressure—led by Australia and New Zealand—to hold elections this year under the existing constitution. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton this week backed that view.

A three-judge Court of Appeal panel on Thursday upheld a challenge to Bainimarama's rule by ousted Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase, saying the military government was illegal and urging Iloilo to replace it with an interim government.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed for calm following the ruling and urged "full respect for human rights, the rule of law and the judicial process," U.N. spokeswoman

Michele Montas said. She added that the U.N. is reviewing its role in mediating the crisis.

Bainimarama seized power after months of bickering with Qarase, whom he accused of discriminating in favor of indigenous Fijians who made up his power base and against the large ethnic Indian minority.

After the coup, Bainimarama persuaded Iloilo to formally install his government to prevent further instability—a move that Bainimarama claimed made his government legitimate.

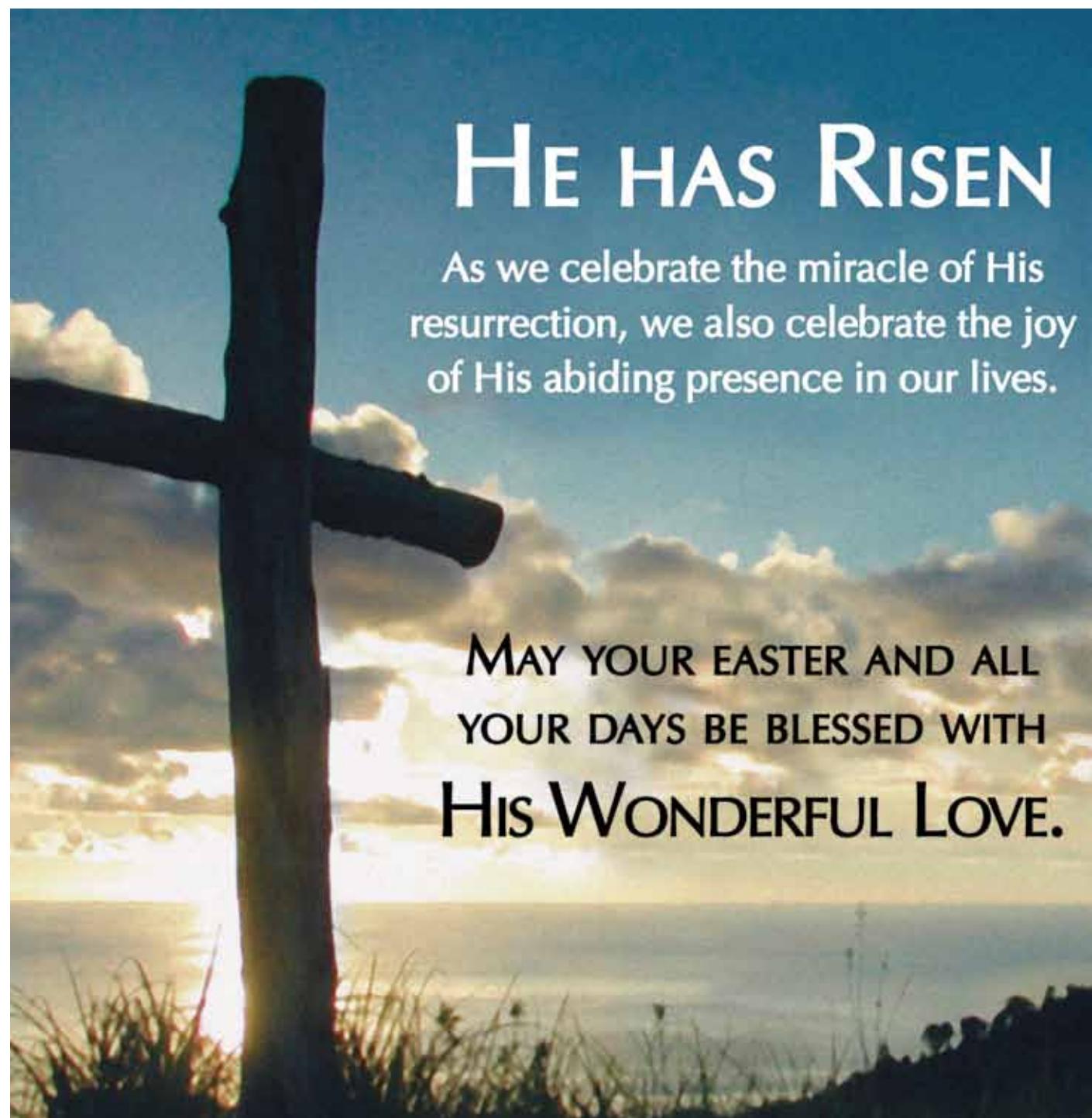
Fiji has been internationally isolated ever since, and its tourism and sugar-export dependent economy has plunged, sending more of the nation's 800,000 population into poverty.

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Congratulations and best wishes to newlyweds Christian and Sarona Santos! May you guys have a wonderful and lovely life together! Best wishes come from all your families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Verlyn S. Aguon! Wishing you happiness and many more birthdays to come! Lots of love from your family and friends!

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Bringing home a mixed bag

As President Obama toured Europe and Turkey in recent days, he dazzled leaders and audiences with his rhetorical gifts and began the long process of restoring the United States' badly damaged prestige. To Europeans still smarting from Bush administration ultimatums, Obama was conciliatory, even humble. "We exercise our leadership best when we are listening ... when we lead by example, when we show some element of humility," he said. To overcome a legacy of unilateralism, Obama stressed the need for "partnerships" at various multilateral venues—a summit of G-20 economic leaders, a 60th-anniversary celebration of NATO and a meeting of European Union leaders. And yet he returns home with a mixed bag of results: applause and admiration but few commitments from allies wary of U.S. power and bluster.

The president accomplished less than he had hoped. The Group of 20 leaders agreed to funnel more money into the International Monetary Fund for struggling nations, but France and Germany resisted U.S. urging to increase domestic government spending in order to stimulate the economy. Supportive of U.S. efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, France nonetheless offered to take a grand total of one Algerian prisoner off Obama's hands.

The Europeans praised Obama's new military-civilian strategy for Afghanistan. Nice words. But although Europe has been the target of several attacks by al-Qaida-linked groups, the allies still largely regard this as an American war. France ruled out sending combat troops, and Germany was noncommittal. NATO offered about 5,000 additional troops and \$100 million to train the Afghan army, but not the combat force Obama had sought.

In another clash of oratory and reality, Obama's pledge in Prague to stop the spread of nuclear weapons ran smack into a North Korean long-range missile launch. Friendly talks with Chinese and Russian leaders did not persuade them to join in a strong condemnation of North Korea's reckless provocation.

Words matter, and the respect that Obama engendered on this trip is key to reclaiming U.S. global leadership. Obama even exercised that leadership when he gently scolded Europeans for espousing what he called casual but insidious anti-Americanism. He urged them to acknowledge "the fundamental truth that America cannot confront the challenges of this century alone, but that Europe cannot confront them without America." Obama's challenge is to transform that partnership into concrete support from the Europeans, who must rise to the occasion and no longer blame President Bush's unilateralism for their unwillingness to help.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



God, Christ, Holy Spirit, and Church II

OhMyGod.com is a website. The phrase is also a favorite expression of female elementary 6th graders. "G-o-d" is a term our Muslim brothers would not pronounce, write, or iconographicize. It has, however, been used to refer to one's "ultimate concern," with which one is bound and sustained, and limits and propels one into existence.

In our time, the word "Christ" has become an expletive of disgust in some quarters, while "Holy Spirit," if used at all, translates into the *taotaomona* that scares the young into proper behavior. "Church," of course, is the building with the archaic architecture that is open when the museum is closed, or the community node where people meet each year to be the Bud, and get silly.

The Teutonic word "Gott," the supreme power, became "God," the good almighty power to the Anglo-Saxons, which is quite a few rivers away from the YAH (YHWH) of the Fertile Crescent, a designation for the only Reality—"I am the Real; there is no other Reality but me!"—of the caravan herders. This Reality is no goody-goody-two-shoe, and in the compelling poetry of Nikos Kazantzakis in *The Saviors of God*, it is the Crimson Line that marks the evolutionary process.

Christ

Kristos is Greek for "the anointed," which is the meaning of the Jewish word "messiah," the expected King from the line of David to unite the separated tribes of Israel. Christ is not the last name of Jesus Ibn Nazareth. Yet in the life and death of the Nazarene carpenter, especially after the Romans razed the temple of Jerusalem and the messianic expectation was heightened, this Jesus would be mythologized not only as the Savior of Israel but later, of humankind. John of Patmos allegorized the satanic Roman Empire.

Yesterday was Good Friday in the Christian calendar. It is paradoxical that Christians named it "good" Friday when the narrative is about the crucifixion of Jesus, in the ignominious company of a couple of thieves. Jesus was, of course, a good Jew but a movement outside the synagogue evolved into a religion that would bear the name of the role he played. To be a Christian is to play the role of being the anointed (called) and bringing the expected deliverance of a people.

It is thus not surprising that the movement of Jesus' followers was not called Jesuism. It was never about the idolatry of Jesus, although later devotional piety would make the whole gamut of a wimpy to irascible idol out of him.

This disparity between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith would become a dividing line of religious schism throughout the ages.

The value of viewing the Jesus of history is to make sure that the faith carried in his name is not abstracted, that the concretion of the personal dimension remains. It is to the credit of Christian thinkers that they kept this personal dimension within the Godhead from which came the persona of *Jesus Christ*.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



The Jesus of history is almost a mirage, with scholars determining that only about 20 percent of the sayings attributed to Jesus could be deemed authentic. In a time when the life expectancy for the male was 33 years old, Jesus as a single male of that age makes him one of ripened maturity rather than a spring chicken in the prime of his youth, or as a young adult as depicted in many art forms.

But it was his death in the hands of the Romans, and blamed on the duplicity of the Jews, that we know of the roles he played. In Augustus' *Pax Romana* where the culture of Empire, of opulence, peace and abundance, this Jesus had the temerity to talk of another empire, of beggars and the oppressed, of orphans and destitutes, of servants and prostitutes. The illusion of prosperity was contradicted by the reality of the excluded and the marginalized. In the real, he located hope and the possibilities of an authentic future.

Playing the purposeful victim added the dimension of martyrdom. The event of the crucifixion was not senseless for it made the guardians of civilization cognizant of the need for order and justice, a later component of Roman law. In Constantine's court, the Christ crucified would rise to being *Christo Rei*, the King.

The notion of sacrifice was ingrained in the Semitic perspective, of being a victim and martyr on behalf of a cause "greater than I," the supreme paradigm for human existence. Add to that the Persian-influenced Hellenistic dichotomies of light and darkness, of truth and ignorance, of good and evil, and the Jesus of history became the transcendent Christ of faith who would preside over the affairs of the Holy Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

Skip the limitations of the ecclesiastical edifice, and you find a rather affirming stance toward life. That good and evil exist is not denied, but that "grace abounds much more than sin," is preached. The role of the Christ is the offense of shattering calcified illusions, of pomposity and hubris, a pointing to the power of possibilities over the hampering inertia of cowered denial of limitations, celebrating the power of life presiding over the forces of death.

This spirited acceptance of one's personal acceptance by the cosmic force makes individuals oblivious to their travails and discomforts, and in the leap of faith, they find their assurance in hanging over the bottomless abyss of ambiguity. Life is secured not in keep-

See GOD on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Q&A with David Kilcullen, anthropologist of war

By CARLOS LOZADA

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Why is an Aussie anthropologist coaching American generals on how to win wars? David Kilcullen, an Australian army reservist and top adviser to Gen. David Petraeus during the troop surge in Iraq, has spent years studying insurgencies in countries from Indonesia to Afghanistan, distinguishing hard-core terrorists from “accidental guerrillas” — and his theories are revolutionizing military thinking throughout the West. Kilcullen spoke about why Pakistan is poised for collapse, whether catching Osama bin Laden is really a good idea and Petraeus’ role in the surge. Excerpts:

Q. What is the real central front in the war on terror?**A.** Pakistan. Hands down. No doubt.**Q. Why?**

A. Pakistan is 173 million people, 100 nuclear weapons, an army bigger than the U.S. Army, and al-Qaida headquarters sitting right there in the two-thirds of the country that the government doesn’t control. The Pakistani military and police and intelligence service don’t follow the civilian government; they are essentially a rogue state within a state. We’re now reaching the point where within one to six months we could see the collapse of the Pakistani state, also because of the global financial crisis, which just exacerbates all these problems. ... The collapse of Pakistan, al-Qaida acquiring nuclear weapons, an extremist takeover — that would dwarf everything we’ve seen in the war on terror today.

Q. How important is it to kill or capture Osama bin laden?

A. Not very. It depends on who does it. Let me give you two possible scenarios. Scenario one is, American commandos shoot their way into some valley in Pakistan and kill bin Laden. That doesn’t end the war on terror; it makes bin Laden a martyr.

But here’s scenario two: Imagine that a tribal raiding party captures bin Laden, puts him on television and says, “You are a traitor

to Islam and you have killed more Muslims than you have killed infidels, and we’re now going to deal with you.” They could either then try and execute the guy in accordance with their own laws or hand him over to the International Criminal Court. If that happened, that would be the end of the al-Qaida myth.

Q. President Obama has said that he will be “as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in.” Is his decision to remove combat forces by August 2010 and leave 50,000 non-combat troops careful or careless?

A. I think it is politically careful. The distinction between combat and non-combat forces in a counterinsurgency environment is largely theoretical. Anyone who is still in Iraq will actually or potentially be engaged in combat.

Q. How much longer will the war last?

A. The intervention ends when the locals can handle it. Right now they can’t. I think that within three to five years, we can say that the chance that the Iraqis will be able to hold their own against their internal threats is pretty high. So I’d say we have another three to five years of substantial engagement in Iraq.

But one other factor here is external interference. What are the Iranians doing, what are the Saudis doing, what are the Jordanians and the Syrians doing? The Iraq part is not the problem, it’s the regional security part that is the problem.

Q. When history has its say, who will be the real father of the surge? Is it Jack Keane, David Petraeus, Raymond Odierno, Fred Kagan? Someone else?

A. It’s Petraeus. If this thing had (expletive) up, everyone would be blaming Petraeus. You wouldn’t find Keane and Odierno and Kagan and President Bush and everyone else stepping forward. So I think the true father of the thing was and is Petraeus.

Q. You argue in your book, “The Accidental Guerrilla,” that if Petraeus had been killed in Iraq, the impact on morale alone could have lost the war. Do you fault President Bush for feeding the cult of Petraeus?

A. Our biggest problem during the surge was a hostile Ameri-

can Congress. They could have killed the thing. There was really nobody except (Senators) McCain and Lieberman arguing for a continued commitment. So I don’t fault President Bush for pushing General Petraeus forward. I think what he was trying to do was to find a figure with sufficient credibility to restore hope within Congress and to gain a measure of support for the effort from the U.S. domestic population.

Q. What are the lessons of Iraq that most apply to Afghanistan?

A. I would say there are three. The first one is you’ve got to protect the population. Unless you make people feel safe, they won’t be willing to engage in unarmed politics. The second lesson is, once you’ve made people safe, you’ve got to focus on getting the population on your side and making them self-defending. And then a third lesson is, you’ve got to make a long-term commitment.

Q. Obama has suggested that it might be possible to reach out to moderate elements of the Taliban, along the lines of the Anbar Awakening in Iraq. Would that work?

A. If the Taliban sees that we’re negotiating for a stay of execution or to stave off defeat, that’s going to harden their resolve. ... I’m all for negotiating, but I think the chances of achieving a mass wave of people turning against the Taliban are somewhat lower in Afghanistan than they were in Iraq.

Q. Did the U.S. military take too long to change course in Iraq?

A. I think it took them a historically standard period of time. In Vietnam it took three to four years to reorient. In Malaya the British took about the same amount of time. In Northern Ireland they took longer. The British in Iraq took longer than the Americans in Iraq. And again, it was Petraeus. ... He put forward this whole change movement within the military. We were almost like insurgents within the U.S. government. My marker of success is that when I first arrived, we had to talk in whispers about stuff that is now considered commonplace. The conventional wisdom now was totally unorthodox in ‘04, ‘05.

Ignore Easter; celebrate Jesus’ life instead

By ERIK REECE

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

God may have struck down Paul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus and turned him into the world’s first Christian. But unlike the “conversion experience,” I have found that losing faith is not a cataclysmic event. It’s more like watching mist rise off a river in the morning. You can’t say exactly when it disappeared, but you know it is gone for good.

My father and grandfather were Baptist preachers. I spent the first 18 years of my life in the compulsory service of the church, and the next 18 years trying to extract myself from its long tentacles. After that, I spent a few more years writing a book about losing faith, and

searching for something to replace it.

Growing up, I had been too sensitive to the fundamentalist message of guilt and sin. It did not, let us say, have the intended effect on me. Whereas my well-adjusted mother believes that the sacrificial blood of Christ “set us free,” all I could see in Christianity was dogmatism, intolerance, and an unhealthy hatred of the flesh.

My father and grandfather have since passed away. And my mother has patiently, with some understanding, watched me drift away from the church that still means much to her. But when my book, “An American Gospel,” came out last week, she still seemed startled by how far I had drifted.

The basic premise of “An American Gospel” is that the kingdom of God lies all around us, not waiting in the sweet hereafter. There-

fore, we must conduct our lives in ways that honor—and will make more manifest—this immanent kingdom through stewardship, empathy and a very real sense of the just.

My mother could, for the most part, sign on to that program.

“But you still believe in the resurrection don’t you?” she asked. An uncomfortable silence followed. How was I to put this? I could have taken the route of many New Testament scholars and said that I believe in the symbolism of the resurrection. But that wouldn’t have satisfied her anymore than it does most Christians. Finally, mercifully, she said, “Well, we can talk about it all later.”

The fact is, American Christianity has historically been focused so obsessively on the Nicene Creed—which says Jesus was the son of God, who was crucified for our sins and rose from the grave three days later—that it never made much room for the actual teachings of this radical Jewish street preacher.

This is why I’m against Easter. It celebrates the death of Jesus nearly to the exclusion of his life. If the Easter miracle can save us from this life, then why bother with the harder work of enacting the kingdom of God here? It is, after all, much harder.

Which brings me back to that word faith. I believe it plays such a disproportionate role in mainstream American Christianity, be it in the rock and roll mega-churches or the humbler places where I worshipped as a child, because it is a belief in what one cannot see. But that belief—that faith in a salvational Christ—is what will guarantee everlasting life. But when such faith is lost, as in my case, what am I left with?

I’m left with the teachings of Jesus—words so radical, they got him killed, words so radical, they might still bring about the end of empire and the beginning of the kingdom of God.

GOD

From Page 10

ing it safe but in giving it away on behalf of the other. “No love is greater than this, that one gives his life for the sake of the neighbor.”

Loving one’s neighbor is a truth that reverberates across the spheres, and resonates in the chambers of everyone’s soul, and to borrow and paraphrase the favored image of World War II landing Marines who flung their bodies into the barbed wires of history so that humanity may trample on their backs, we get the *imago dei* of the Christ, and understands it as an option open to everyone, anywhere, anytime.

That this has been true, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall, world without end, we respond: *Amen*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The fate of Marpi

I would like to clarify a few things about what took place Thursday at the Marpi Homestead Development site. Contrary to some rumors and reports online and on the street, there was no planned protest. Lannie Walker of KSPN wanted to interview some concerned community members, so an e-mail was sent out and some came out to speak with her at the site, as well as to find out more about why hectares of land were being bulldozed only a few hundred yards away from Suicide Cliff’s lookout point.

John Scott, president of AMPRO, which is the company responsible for removing the UXO’s (unexploded ordnance), introduced himself and spoke about the history of the area, and he showed us some of the ordnance they uncovered. He clarified that the bulldozing is necessary to get to the ordnance, and the removal of the ordnance was important, as the vast area was used as a UXO dumping ground shortly after WWII. Mr. Scott stressed that for safety and environmental reasons the ordnance needs to be removed.

Franz Reksid, Brownsfields project manager for DPL, reemphasized the need for the removal of the UXO’s and assured everyone present that the planned homestead project is still years away and funds still need to be allocated to go through with the project. He also stated that public hearings would be held before the Marpi homestead project moves forward.

I think everyone present was very appreciative of the explanations given by Mr. Scott and Mr. Reksid. Mr. Scott added that there were public hearings conducted years back regarding the removal

I thank each and every person, whether they are for or against the Marpi Homestead Project, for voicing their concerns. I also thank Mr. Scott and Mr. Reksid for their time. Let us continue to be vigilant and work together to ensure that the fate of Marpi will be thoroughly discussed in a series of public hearings before any homesteads are given out and before more precious public land is leased out for a fraction of what it is really worth. A master plan for Saipan cannot be developed without the proper input from our community. After all, we are the true shareholders of Saipan Incorporated.

In closing, I want to share with you a Kenyan proverb that was given to me by a dear friend: “We have not inherited this land from our ancestors; rather, we have borrowed it from our children.”

Ed Propst
via e-mail

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 71
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 50
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 59
Miami	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 71
New York	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 37
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 53
Paris	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 47
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 51
Rome	Rain	▲ 67 ▼ 54
Salem	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 46
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 50
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 40

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Today
2:45 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.8 Feet	Sunday	7:59 PM
8:02 AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet	6:05 AM	6:47 AM
3:06 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet	6:31 PM	7:32 AM
9:42 PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet	Monday	8:53 PM
		Tuesday	9:48 PM
		Wednesday	8:19 AM
		Thursday	10:40 PM
		Friday	9:09 AM
		Saturday	11:30 PM
		Sunday	10:00 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
Saipan-Rota				Rota-Saipan			
C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7				CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6			
Saipan-Guam				Guam-Saipan			
C09317 5:00am 5:50am Daily				CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7			
C09318 8:30am 9:20am Daily				CO 9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota			
C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota				C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily			
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6				C09600 10:20am 11:10am Daily			
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily				C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily			
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily				C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily			
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily				C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily			
Saipan-Narita				Narita-Saipan			
NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily				NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily			
NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7				NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7			
NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily				NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily			
Guam-Narita				Narita-Guam			
NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily				NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily			
NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily				NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily			
Saipan-Osaka				Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6				OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7			
Guam-Osaka				Osaka-Guam			
NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily				NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily			
Saipan-Nagoya				Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily				NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily			

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am

Sunday School for Children: 10-11am

Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm

Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm

Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities

Adult Sunday School: 9am

Youth Sunday School: 9am

English Worship Service Sunday: 10am

Sunday Service: 5:30pm

Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm

Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30-7:30pm

Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;

Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm

Mid-week Service: 7:30pm

Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm

Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm

Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am

Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,

Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am

GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am

Sunday: 7am

Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm

Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Thursday: 5:30am (English): 7:45 pm (English)

Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Sunday: 6:45am (English)

Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville

Sunday Services

9:00 AM

Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158

Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church

Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal

8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-8pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablon building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service,
Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00pm
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6:30am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 11, 2000

Federal takeover threats still alive

Local lawmakers visiting Congress in Washington D.C. expressed optimism yesterday over continued CNMI control over its immigration and minimum wage, but said there are still efforts by some members that threaten such power granted to the islands. Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, who led the 10-member delegation, vowed to woo support by U.S. lawmakers from both the House of Representatives and the Senate on local programs aimed at improving the island's labor conditions and ensuring economic growth here. Since arriving in the nation's capital late last week, the group has met with some members of Congress and several key officials of their staff to discuss legislative issues affecting the Commonwealth.

Dynasty, Mandarin Air seal deal for charter flights

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino will sign today with Mandarin Airlines the charter agreement for a direct service between Taipei and Saipan in a move to boost visitor arrivals on the island. The delegation led by Hong Kong Overseas Entertainment Inc. chair Michael Kwan and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan left for Taipei yesterday afternoon. A group of cultural dancers from the CNMI will perform during the signing ceremony to provide the Taiwanese a glimpse of the island's culture. Mandarin Air will begin its Taipei-Saipan flight twice a week on May 1, 2000 using a B737-800 which can accommodate 158 passengers. The travel agents from Taiwan will handle the marketing of Monday flight while Tinian Dynasty will take care of the Friday flight schedule.

April 11, 2001

Saipan lost investors to Guam

The Northern Marianas has once again lost a substantial amount of investments to its neighboring island of Guam, apparently due to restrictive investment policies in the Commonwealth. Due to its restrictive investment laws, Northern Marianas has been losing potential foreign businessmen to Guam where investors can get a green card and American citizenship in five years for a minimum of \$250,000 in total investments. Aside from not requiring foreign investors to post cash security deposit, Guam has also streamlined the business permit renewal process by making the licensing office perform all clearances.

CUC told to award 60MW power plant to next bidder

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation was ordered to award the multi-million 60-megawatt Saipan power plant to the next lowest bidder to jump-start the project and thwart possible legal consequences. Legislative leaders cautioned CUC officials not to waste time and begin talks with Tomen Consortium as required under the terms of Public Law 12-1. Any delay is seen to result in another possible lawsuit, which in the end will be against the best interest of the utility corporation and Commonwealth consumers. In the next 30-days, CUC should be able to wrap up negotiations with Tomen Consortium and forge a contract as stated in the existing procurement regulations.

April 11, 2002

DD Council chief sacked AGO asked to step in

Thomas J. Camacho has been fired as executive director of the CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities during an executive session of the agency's Board of Directors Tuesday afternoon. Camacho, who has served the Council as executive director in a total of four years, was unseated by the Board on grounds of "unsatisfactory performance." Camacho has been with the GDDC in the last nine years. Yesterday, he asked the Attorney General's Office to investigate the legalities of the proceedings that resulted in his expulsion as executive director of the Council.

Rota rejects Global Country of Peace

Making a decision that was described as painful, the leadership of Rota has decided to reject the "generous" offer of Global Country of Peace to invest in the island "for the sake of unity in the Commonwealth." In a privilege speech yesterday that apparently took a majority of his colleagues by surprise, Rep. Daniel O. Quiguita disclosed that, after an evening meeting on Tuesday, he and other leaders of Rota have decided not to entertain anymore the investment offer made by the controversial meditation group. In exchange, the lawmaker pleaded with the Legislature to pass a measure that would allocate \$1 million for Rota for the construction of a dialysis center-a measure that was vetoed by the previous Tenorio administration due to some technical defects.

Business

Obama says timing right for millions to refinance

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring "good news" in the midst of an economic meltdown, President Barack Obama on Thursday urged families to take advantage of near-record low mortgage rates by refinancing their home loans. "We are at a time where people can really take advantage of this," Obama said, seated with a handful of homeowners who have already lowered their bills.

"That is money in their pocket."

Foreclosures and defaults continue to break records. A record 5.4 million American homeowners with a mortgage, or nearly 12 percent, were at least one month late or in foreclosure at the end of last year. And nearly half of homeowners with a risky subprime adjustable-rate mortgage were in trouble.

Last month, the Obama administration launched a new plan to provide \$75 billion in incentives for the mortgage industry to modify loans to help borrowers avoid foreclosure. On Thursday, the president encouraged people to take advantage of a government Web site—<http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov>—to see how they can get help.

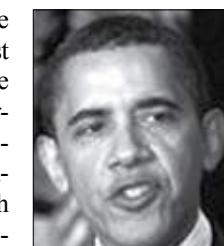
Tata Nano finally goes on sale across India

Nation

Obama seeks \$83.4 billion in special war money

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama asked Congress on Thursday for \$83.4 billion for U.S. military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, pressing for special troop funding that he opposed two years ago when he was senator and George W. Bush was president.

Obama's request, including money to send thousands more troops to Afghanistan, would



push the costs of the two wars to almost \$1 trillion since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to the Congressional Research Service. The additional money would cover operations into the fall.

Obama is also requesting \$350 million in new funding

Officials: Pirates, terrorists not linked directly

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. officials have found no direct ties between East African pirates and terrorist groups but continue to search for signs of links between the two factions in the wake of the Indian Ocean hostage incident. It was not clear whether officials were specifically scrutinizing the Somali pirates who boarded the Maersk Alabama on Tuesday and fled in a lifeboat after taking hostage the cargo ship's captain.

Military and counterterrorism officials say that in the transient world of Somalia's combative coastal dwellers, a Somali clansman can be a fisherman one day, a pirate the

next, and a weapons trafficker the following day.

"If you look at the clan structure or the tribes—to think that there may not be linkages probably is a bit naive," Adm. William "Kip" Ward told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

Michael Leiter, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, warned that some of the money from piracy could make its way into the hands of extremists.

"I certainly would not put that out of the realm of possibility," Leiter said at the Aspen Institute. When hijackings first spiked off the coast of Soma-

lia last year, counterterrorism officials pressed for any evidence that the country's extremist factions, or even al-Qaida militants operating in East Africa, might be using piracy to fund their violence.

But the complicated clan structure and Somalia's ungoverned black market have made it difficult to trace the cash transactions.

In one indication that the groups sometimes have conflicting agendas, members of the al-Shabab terrorist organization lashed out publicly at a group of pirates late last year after they attacked the Sirius Star, a Saudi oil tanker.

to upgrade security along the U.S.-Mexico border and to combat narcoterrorists, along with another \$400 million in counterinsurgency aid to Pakistan.

"Nearly 95 percent of these funds will be used to support our men and women in uniform as they help the people of Iraq to take respon-

sibility for their own future—and work to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida in Pakistan and Afghanistan," Obama wrote in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, ac-

knowledged that Obama has been critical of Bush's use of similar special legislation to pay for the wars. He said it was needed this time because the money will be required by summer, before Congress is likely to complete its normal

appropriations process.

"This will be the last supplemental for Iraq and Afghanistan. The process by which this has been funded over the course of the past many years, the president has discussed and will change," Gibbs said.

FDA reversal OKs morphine painkiller for dying

NEW YORK (AP)—A liquid morphine painkiller given by family caregivers to dying patients can remain on the market, federal regulators have decided after hearing protests over their decision to remove it. The Food and Drug Administration had announced last week that it was ordering manufacturers to stop making 14 medications including the liquid morphine. All were developed so long ago they had never received FDA approval. But on Thursday, the FDA's Dr. Douglas Throckmorton told The Associated Press the morphine liquid will remain on the market until it's replaced by an approved version or some equivalent therapy.

The reversal was welcomed by experts in hospice care and pain relief. One doctors group had told the FDA that last week's order would "cause extreme suffering for many patients who are nearing the end of life."

The order has not changed for the other painkillers, at least for now, said Throckmorton, deputy director of the agency's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

The agency said last week that the unapproved drugs might be unsafe, ineffective or poor quality. The order gave manufacturers 60 days to stop making those products.

The liquid morphine is highly concentrated. Other

approved forms of liquid morphine are more dilute, and Throckmorton said the FDA had thought the other forms could take the place of the concentrated form.

But reaction from hospice experts and others "helped us understand" that some patients need the unapproved version, Throckmorton said.

In interviews, experts said they didn't have firm numbers on how many patients use the concentrated liquid. But Dr. Diane Meier, director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, estimated that it may be at least 2 million Americans a year.

Murder charge dismissed in Ala. baby death

CARROLLTON, Ala. (AP)—The autopsy of an Alabama baby was so badly botched a judge dismissed a murder charge against the mother Thursday, and the state now plans to review every forensic case by the medical examiner who bungled the procedure.

Circuit Judge James Moore threw out the case against Bridget Lee, a 34-year-old church pianist who spent nine months in jail after being charged with her child's death in 2006. An initial au-

topsy found that the baby was suffocated, but reviews by six experts concluded the baby was stillborn and no crime occurred.

The medical examiner who worked on Lee's case, Dr. Corinne Stern, now works in Texas, where officials were just learning of the Alabama case. It's not known exactly how many homicide cases Stern worked on in Alabama, but officials said it could be as many as 100.

Lee hugged her attorney and cried after the ruling.

"It's a great day. I'm going to go home and have lunch with my family and just be free," she said.

Lee, who has suffered from depression and bipolar disorder, admitted she committed adultery and became pregnant while married with two children. When the baby arrived stillborn, she did not seek medical help but instead panicked. She placed the newborn in a plastic container and left it for several days in the back of her sport utility vehicle.

ACROSS THE NATION

Heavy storms rake Midwest; tornado hits Ark. town

MENA, Ark. (AP)—A tornado struck a small Arkansas town on Thursday night, causing minor injuries, as part of a severe storm system moving quickly across the nation's midsection. The reported tornado scored a direct hit on the Polk County Courthouse in Mena, near the Oklahoma state line, said Renee Preslar, a spokeswoman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Gov. Mike Beebe dispatched 30 National Guard soldiers to the town after local officials asked for troops to secure the heavily damaged downtown area, Preslar said. Twelve minor injuries were reported in Mena, but authorities were going door-to-door checking for more injuries. A 13th person was hospitalized in Howard County after a tree was toppled onto a house.

Las Vegas Democrat who sponsored the bill, says the state is desperate for revenue and has not collected taxes from prostitution since it was legalized in some rural counties more than 30 years ago. Sen. Mike McGinness, a Republican from Fallon who voted against the tax, says he wouldn't support a new tax on services. Coffin has estimated the tax would've raised at least \$2 million a year. Nevada is facing a more than \$2.8 billion revenue shortfall.

3 slain Pittsburgh officers remembered as heroes

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Two served on the Pittsburgh police force less than two years. The third was a veteran of 14 years. At a memorial service attended by 10,000 people Thursday, each was remembered as a hero, someone who found his calling in uniform and carrying out the motto: To protect and serve. Stephen Mayhle, Paul Sciuillo II and Eric Kelly, who were killed while responding to a domestic call Saturday morning, should be honored by people living out that motto, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said. Deputy Chief Paul Donaldson said he felt his "badge shone brighter, I walked taller and I felt a little prouder," because of his fallen colleagues' actions.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT/NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MARPI, SAIPAN

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Public Works in conjunction with CRM, DPL, DEQ, HPO and FWL are making available for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (DEAR) prepared for the proposed Kalabera Cave Development Project proposed by the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Marianas Visitors Authority is the project sponsor. The project is federally funded by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs for Capital Improvement Projects under Section 118 of Public Law 104-134, and is pursuant to Article XIV Section 3 of the NMI Constitution including the NMI Historic Preservation Act of 1982, Public Law 3-39.

The project is designed to meet or exceed the requirements of local and federal laws, and construction includes car and bus parking, pathway, resting house, house of prayer, pictograph Interpretive house, and cave interior lighting.

An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), which is a written document that discusses the potential environmental effects of the project and feasible mitigation measures to reduce those effects to less-than-significant levels, is proposed for certification by the Commonwealth pursuant to the NEPA and NHPA Guidelines. Possible environmental impacts of this project include impacts upon or related to aesthetics, transportation, air quality, noise, cultural and historical resources, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, hazardous materials, and public utilities and service systems. Responsible and trustee agencies and those who have already expressed an interest in this matter will automatically receive a copy of the Draft EAR; for other interested persons, copies of the Draft EAR may be requested from the Department of Public Works at the address and telephone number given below or from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the address and telephone number given below. The 30-day review period for the Draft EAR is from April 7, 2009 to May 7, 2009. During this period, comments may be submitted to the Department of Public Works at the address given below, in either writing or by e-mail, or comments may be made during the public hearing, the date and location of which is described below.

Said public hearing where all interested members of the public may attend and be heard will be held on Friday, the 24th day of April 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Gregorio Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan. This hearing will be for acceptance of public comments on the Draft EAR by DPW staff or staff from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates. No decision regarding the project or certification of the EAR will be made at this meeting. A final decision on this project will be made at a future date at a meeting of the Department of Public Works, who would also consider certification of the EAR at that time. All persons interested in the matter may appear and be heard at this meeting.

Copies of the Draft EAR in spiral bound form may be obtained in person from:

Department of Public Works
Technical Service Division,
Joeten Building, 2nd Floor,
San Jose Village
Saipan,
MP 96950.
Tel: 670-234-9828/38

and

Herman B. Cabrera & Associates
P.O. Box 501421
Garapan Village
Saipan, MP 96950
Attn: Herman B. Cabrera, AIA President
E-Mail: hbcabrera@gmail.com
Tel: 670-234-1778

A copy will be charged at the nominal rate of \$0.20 per sheet.

A copy of the document may also be viewed at:

Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

Comments on the Draft EAR should be submitted to the Department of Public Works or to Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the e-mail address or his address above. Comments on the Draft EAR must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 7, 2009.

Proposed Nev. prostitution tax dies on panel vote

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—A proposal to levy a \$5 tax on sex acts in Nevada has died in a state Senate committee. The 3-4 vote Thursday in the Nevada Senate Taxation Committee was one shy of the four needed to keep the proposal afloat. Committee Chairman Bob Coffin, the

World

US warship watches Somali pirates with US hostage

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Somali pirates and their hostage American sea captain were adrift in a lifeboat Thursday off the Horn of Africa, shadowed by a U.S. destroyer with more warships on the way in a U.S. show of force. The U.S. brought in FBI hostage negotiators to work with the military in trying to secure the release of Capt. Richard Phillips of Underhill, Vt. An official said the bandits were in talks with the Navy about resolving the stand-off peacefully.

As the high-seas drama stretched into a second day, the freighter that was the target of the

pirates steamed away from the lifeboat under armed U.S. Navy guard, with all of its crew safe—except for the captive captain.

The pirates tried to hijack the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama on Wednesday, but Phillips thwarted the takeover by telling his crew of about 20 to lock themselves in a room, the crew told stateside relatives.

The crew later overpowered some of the pirates, but Phillips, 53, surrendered himself to the bandits to safeguard his men, and four of the Somalis fled with him to an enclosed lifeboat, the relatives said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan, US differ on punishing North Korea

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council hit a deadlock on how to punish North Korea for its rocket launch, with the U.S. and Japan differing over whether to specify those who would be targeted by any new economic sanctions. Both the nations would prefer a full-blown resolution, but the U.S. worries it could take too long and believes that a statement read aloud by the 15-nation council's monthly revolving president would still provide the necessary legal teeth, council diplomats said. Japan also wants a resolution to specifically name about 10 companies believed to be helping enable North Korea to carry out its missile testing, but the U.S. worries that vetting those companies' names could take too long and the council would be better off to let a sanctions committee do that work later, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions.

UK's top anti-terror officer resigns after blunder

LONDON (AP)—Britain's top counter-terrorist police officer resigned Thursday after he was photographed carrying clearly visible secret documents about an operation against an alleged al-Qaida plot by Pakistani nationals to launch an attack in Britain. Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick's blunder forced police to scramble to round up the suspects sooner than planned. Twelve men were arrested late Wednesday in raids across northwest England. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the raids had disrupted "a very big terrorist plot." "We have been following it for some time," Brown told reporters. Greater Manchester Police Chief Constable Peter Fahy said police had not identified a threat to any particular target. But he said the raids had been triggered

because police thought public safety was at risk. "We perceived a threat was there and we had to take action," he said.

Thai protesters confront police near Asia summit

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)—Hundreds of anti-government protesters demanding the resignation of the Thai prime minister faced off Friday against riot police near where a summit of Asian leaders will be held. The protesters gathered at a police checkpoint on a road leading up a hill toward the summit venue where leaders of 16 Asian nations will gather this weekend. There was no violence, but protesters drove a truck to the line of helmeted riot police and were threatening to break through. The East Asia Summit brings together leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. On Thursday, the demonstrators whose numbers have swelled to 100,000 in recent days brought areas of Bangkok, the Thai capital, to a standstill.

Phillips has a radio and contacted the Navy and the crew of the Alabama to say he is unharmed, the Maersk shipping company said in a statement, adding that the lifeboat is within sight of the USS Bainbridge, the naval destroyer that arrived on the scene earlier Thursday.

The Alabama began sailing toward the Kenyan port of Mombasa—its original destination—and was expected to arrive Saturday night, said Joseph Murphy, a professor at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy whose son, Shane Murphy, is second in command of the ves-

sel. The elder Murphy said he was briefed by the shipping company.

A U.S. official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the situation, said a Navy team of armed guards was aboard the Alabama.

The Bainbridge had arrived

earlier in the day near the Alabama and the lifeboat. Maersk shipping company spokesman Kevin Speers told AP Radio the lifeboat was out of fuel and "dead in the water."

The U.S. Navy sent up P-3 Orion surveillance aircraft and had video of the scene.

*Easter Celebrates God's Gift of Love.
May you see His mighty hand
in every detail of your life.*

Happy Easter!

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony and are fully furnished, air-conditioned and feature FREE wireless DSL internet service.



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Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 11, 2009

Online campaign to renew OWWA membership

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the past two weeks, two Filipino workers died on Saipan. Because they did not renew their membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, their friends on Saipan have been asking for monetary donations to help the families back home for funeral expenses and other needs.

Paul Madriaga, vice president-internal of the United Filipino Organization, started an

online public service campaign reminding his fellow overseas Filipino workers in the CNMI to renew their OWWA membership before they expire to help protect their families in case they pass away unexpectedly.

As noted by Philippine government officials, many Filipinos in the CNMI renew their OWWA membership, or apply for one, only when they are about to go on vacation in the Philippines. If they don't go on vacation for two years or more, they wouldn't renew their membership.

"OWWA is an OFW insurance for our families just in case something happens to us, like death," Madriaga said, citing the two recent deaths of OFWs.

He said families in the Philippines need any financial help they could get once the remains of their loved one arrive in the country.

Madriaga said the money from OWWA will be of great help to the family of a deceased worker. Besides life insurance, there are other benefits of being an OWWA member.

He echoed the statement of

Philippine labor attaché Joann Lourdes Lavilla that a worker's \$25 in annual OWWA membership fee goes a long way in helping their families after they're gone.

To apply for OWWA membership or renew one's membership, all one needs to do is fill up an application form that can be downloaded online at www.owwa.gov.ph or can be obtained from the OWWA office on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) in Susupe.

Recipients of the online campaign welcomed the reminder.

Of the estimated 8,000 to 10,000 OFWs in the CNMI, only about 3,325 renewed their OWWA membership as of 2008.

OWWA, an attached agency of the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, is the lead government agency tasked to protect and promote the welfare and well-being of overseas Filipino workers and their dependents.

For a \$25 membership contribution, an OWWA member is entitled to various benefits

and services, including life/accident insurance. A member is covered with life insurance for the duration of his employment contract. The coverage includes P100,000 for natural death and P200,000 for accidental death.

A member shall be entitled to disability/dismemberment benefits ranging from P2,000 to P50,000. In case of total permanent disability, a member shall be entitled to P100,000. A burial benefit of P20,000 shall also be provided in case of the member's death.

Pirates hijack 21 Filipino seafarers

MANILA, Philippines—Two ships with 21 Filipino seafarers on board had been hijacked April 6 by suspected Somali pirates off Seychelles and Madagascar, the Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed.

This brings the number of Filipino seafarers in captivity to 117 in seven vessels.

In a press statement, the DFA's Office of the Undersecretary of Migrants' Workers Affairs said *Win Far 161* has 17 Filipino seafarers while *M/V Malaspina Castle* has four.

OUMWA said the local manning agency of *M/V Malaspina Castle* is working on the release of the vessel and its crew, whose families have been informed of the incident.

On the other hand, it said, the local manning agency of *Win Far 161* is still verifying information from its principal.

"The Philippine government continues to coordinate closely with concerned foreign governmental authorities and the local manning agencies of the captured vessels for the early and safe release of the Filipino seafarers," the DFA said.

Over the past several weeks, there has been a surge of hijackings by suspected Somali pirates farther away from Somalia.

Piracy has been a major problem in the Gulf of Aden, a major trade route between Asia and Europe, for the past couple of years, prompting the international community to work together patrolling the area.

The United Nations even allowed police action inside the land territory of Somalia against the pirates. (*INQUIRER.net*)



MORNING STROLL

A boy is sound asleep in his stroller as his parents walk down from Mount Tapochao yesterday as part of the Good Friday pilgrimage on Saipan, which is a predominantly Catholic community.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Bayanihan' among Filipinos in Italy quake

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Filipinos who were left homeless by the deadly earthquake in the historic city of L'Aquila in Italy are helping one another cope with the effects of the disaster in the spirit of "bayanihan" or cooperation, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Wednesday.

In a statement, the DFA said members of "the Filipino community in Rome are helping pool together resources to deliver basic necessities to the Filipinos in L'Aquila," in coordination with the Philippine embassy.

Citing a report of the Philip-

pine embassy in Rome, which in turn got its information from the consular team it sent to the earthquake-stricken area, the DFA said that all Filipinos in the capital city of Abruzzo were accounted for.

At the same time, the consular team tasked to check on the Filipinos in the area also reported that the Filipino who sustained minor injuries due to the quake, Jefferson Pugal, has undergone treatment and is well.

The team sent by Emmanuel Fernandez, chargé d'affaires of the Philippine embassy, also said the Filipinos at the emergency center set up by the Italian Civil Protection Office have been provided numbered tents

as temporary shelter. It noted that the tents are of good quality and are well-heated.

"A small group of Filipinos left the emergency center to go back to a hotel where they initially sought shelter in the locality of Cansatessa. The owner of the shelter, an employer of one of the Filipinos, has offered to accommodate the group up to one year," the team said.

The team also reported that it would assist Filipinos in L'Aquila in reconstructing their travel documents and would be liberal in the documentary requirements.

L'Aquila is the capital of Abruzzo and is approximately two to three hours from Rome.

LABOR FRONT

Time limit to file a complaint

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What is the time limit for an alien worker to file a complaint before the Department of Labor?

A: No Labor complaint may be filed more than six months after the date of the last-occurring event that is the subject of the complaint. The Labor Rules and Regulations, however, states that exceptions are in cases where the actionable conduct was not discoverable upon the last-occurring event.

In such instance, the regulations state that no complaint may be filed more than six months after the date a complainant of reasonable diligence could have discovered the actionable conduct.

Q: What are the factors that causes Labor to reject an employer's application to hire an alien worker?

A: According to the Regulations, the term "just cause" for rejecting an application for employment includes all of the lawful criteria that an employer normally applies in making hiring decisions such as rejecting persons with criminal records for positions of trust, and rejecting persons without an educational degree necessary for the position.

The other criteria include rejecting persons with no favorable recommendation from prior employment, rejecting persons with an employment history indicating an inability to perform the job successfully, rejecting persons with an educational background making it unlikely that the necessary education or training to hold the position could be accomplished successfully within a reasonable time, and similar just causes.

Q: Are alien workers allowed to work under a subcontract arrangement?

A: According to the regulations, any subcontract by an employer to another employer for the services of a foreign national worker shall be implemented or performed only with the prior approval of the Labor Director.

Application for approval of a subcontract shall be submitted on a standard form provided by Labor. Temporary census workers may be subcontracted to the Department of Commerce without prior approval.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

Arroyo weeps for 8 aides killed in chopper crash

By JOEL GUINTO

INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led a tearful salute Thursday to her eight aides who died in a helicopter crash in the northern highlands, as Malacañang vowed a “very thorough” inquiry into the incident.

“We mourn the death of our friends and colleagues who died while serving their country. I will miss them so much in my official family,” Arroyo said in a brief statement she read at the Mansion, her official residence in Baguio City.

Finding parallels between the death of her aides, and the Holy Week, the President said: “Like His only Son, whose martyrdom we commemorate this week, what is required from us is our prayerful acceptance of and unshakable faith in the life after death.”

At 10:15am Thursday, Arroyo saw off the remains of seven of the fatalities at the Loakan Airport.

The caskets bore the remains of Press undersecretary Jose Capadocia, appointments secretary Marilou Frostrom, director Perlita Bandayanon from the Presidential Management Staff; Senior Military Aide to the President, Brig. Gen. Carlos Clet; Clet’s aide, Petty Officer 1 Demy Reyno; pilot Maj. Rolando Sacatani, and co-pilot Capt. Alvin Alegata, the Inquirer Northern Luzon Bureau reported.

Arroyo was in tears during a brief religious service for the late Palace staffers, as she condoled with their families, state-run dzRB radio said in a separate report.

Three military helicopters and a private chopper flew in at 9:15am the remains of Capadocia; Frostrom, Clet, Bandayanon, Sacatani, and Alegata, the Inquirer report said.

Toward noon, the remains of Perez was flown in at the Baguio airport, and was eventually shipped home to Manila, it said.

Arroyo was accompanied at the airport by the grieving families of the deceased Palace employees and military officials, including Clet’s widow.

After the service, the remains were flown to the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

Press secretary Cerge Remonde said Ms Arroyo cut short her Lenten vacation to supervise a common wake for the advance team at the Palace’s Hall of Heroes on Thursday evening.

When asked at a news conference, Remonde said the President has yet to discuss with the Cabinet about her scheduled Good Friday flight to Thailand to attend the 14th Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation Summit.

“We are still consulting the Department of Foreign Affairs,” Remonde said.

He said the President tried to maintain her composure at the Mansion during the hours



A Roman Catholic priest walks past flag-draped metal caskets as he sprinkles them with holy water upon arrival Thursday, April 9, 2009 at the Villamor airbase in suburban Paranaque, south of Manila, Philippines. Inset, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo cries beside press secretary Cerge Remonde during a brief religious service for victims at the airport in Baguio city, northern Philippines. AP

running up to the discovery of the partially charred helicopter, although Arroyo soon became “emotional.”

Remonde, Trade Secretary Peter Favila; PMS Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr; Internal Affairs Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan; Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III; and Bayani Fernando, chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority joined the President at the Loakan Airport.

They later met with the President, after she delivered the short statement.

Secretary Conrado Limcaoco of the Philippine Infor-

mation Agency and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita were also expected to join Arroyo here before she would travel by land to Manila.

The Bell 412 helicopter crashed Tuesday in a mountain rain forest near Tinoc township in Ifugao province.

Arroyo’s aides were flying from Baguio to Ifugao, about 45 minutes away by helicopter, to prepare for her visit there on Wednesday. She was scheduled to inspect a mountain road project but the trip was canceled after the helicopter disappeared.

After flying into thick clouds and encountering rain, the heli-

copter struggled to turn back to avoid slamming into the 9,586-foot (2,922-meter) Mount Pulag, the country’s second high-

est peak. But it crashed into a nearby forest for still-unclear reasons, Ifugao police Chief Joseph Cagayan Adnol said.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor’s and Lt. Governor’s Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Ground search teams were hampered by rain and the thick vegetation and took hours to reach the burnt wreckage along a small creek, said Ifugao Gov. Teddy Baguilat, quoting police.

The Philippine Air Force will be leading the investigation, Presidential Management Staff Chief Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said.

Esperon said the eight were “practically recognizable,” six of who were found inside the wreckage, one was seen nearby, while Perez’s body was found on a cliff, 60 meters from the helicopter wreckage.

“The weather must have played a lot, just be assured the result of the investigation will be very thorough, [the results will be out] in due time,” he said.

On Wednesday, PAF Chief Lieutenant General Oscar Rabena ruled out the possibility of a sabotage, saying the presidential helicopters were under heavy guard.

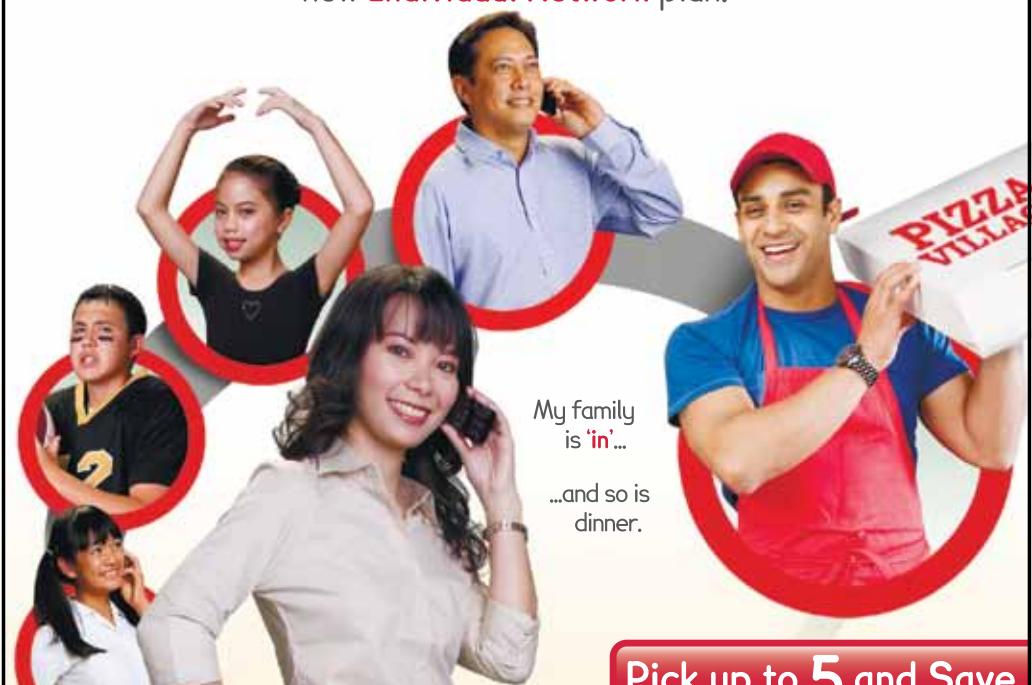
Meanwhile, press secretary Remonde pledged the Palace’s “all-out support” for the families of the late staffers.

The presidential helicopter had been grounded at the Mansion’s lawn as a precaution, because of the Tuesday accident.

The advance team’s chopper is of the same make and model as the President’s flagship helicopter.

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Tondo shooting spree linked to gang rituals

By ERIKA SAULER
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Manila police are looking into the possibility that a youth gang in Tondo is responsible for the shooting spree on Tuesday that injured three persons who were on their way home from a “pabasa.”

Station 1 chief Supt. Ernesto Tendero Jr. told the Inquirer it was the only shooting incident in the area involving men riding in tandem. Some Tondo residents had earlier claimed that the motorcycle-riding gunmen had been sowing terror for two weeks now.

No OFW layoffs in France—envoy

MANILA, Philippines—The estimated 40,000 overseas Filipino workers in France, mostly caregivers privately employed by families, are keeping their jobs despite the layoffs in many parts of the world caused by global recession, new French Ambassador to the Philippines Thierry Borja De Mozota has said.

“At the moment, there is no sign of reduction of workers of families in France. They are not working for companies, so there is no reason for them to lose their jobs,” he told reporters during a reception in his residence in Makati recently.

The ambassador said the French government recognizes the contribution of the Filipino community to the French economy.

However, he said, a cause for concern is the estimated 33,000 undocumented OFWs.

That is why, Borja de Mozota said, his office is working on a bilateral labor agreement between the Philippines and France that would allow Filipino workers in France to obtain their legal working permits.

“This agreement would give undocumented Filipino workers in France a chance to legalize their stay. This will ensure that Filipinos already in France will be provided an avenue to get working permit as soon as they ask for it,” he said.

Separately, the two governments having been trying to hammer out since two years a labor agreement that aims to attract professionals like nurses and doctors, as well as those fashion designers and entrepreneurs, into France.

But the program has not been very successful because Filipinos are generally not proficient in the French language.

The program requires Filipinos to return to the Philippines after a couple of years to use the skills and knowledge they’ve gained in France in their home country.

For the past several years, the European Union has been trying to rationalize its migration policies and programs. Last year, it adopted the so-called Return Directive, detailing how undocumented migrants may be repatriated back to their homeland. This year, it passed the Employers Sanction Directive, which penalizes employers who employ undocumented migrant workers.

According to EU estimates, there are more than 90,000 undocumented Filipino workers in Europe, mostly working as household service workers in Paris, Nice, Milan, Rome, Madrid, and Barcelona. (*INQUIRER.net*)

“It was either a fraternity initiation or they were high on drugs,” Tendero said. “The other cases of shooting in the area were just the usual brawls.”

In a separate interview, Manila Police District chief Sr. Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay echoed Tendero’s suspicion that the shooting might be fraternity-related but said it had been going on for about three weeks, according to reports reaching him.

Magtibay assured that the police are implementing countermeasures to solve the “thrill killing.” He said he was confident that an informant would eventually help the police

identify the gunmen.

Tondo residents earlier tipped reporters that the motorcycle-riding men usually carried out their shooting spree between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m.

Tendero said they suspect that the gang True Brown Style (TBS) had something to do with the shooting on Tuesday. Its members are between 18 and 23 years old, with a slit in an eyebrow and a teardrop tattoo. Some of them had been involved in riots and holdup incidents, he said.

The anticriminality campaign has intensified and police have been embedded in the area, Tendero said.



PASSION PLAY

A woman portraying Virgin Mary cries beside the cross where a man as Jesus Christ is nailed during a passion play on Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2009, suburban Mandaluyong City east of Manila, Philippines. AP

Factory explosion kills 12 in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An explosion caused a factory building to collapse north of the Philippine capital, killing at least 12 workers and injuring three others, officials said Wednesday.

Police, firefighters and rescue workers sifted through debris for one missing worker after the factory’s steam boiler exploded late Tuesday, said Tony Mateo of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council in Bulacan province’s Santa Maria township.

The explosion ignited a brief fire at the factory, which produces Styrofoam packaging materials.

The blast was so powerful that it de-

stroyed half the building and sent debris flying outside the compound and onto the roof of a school across the street, Mateo said.

Santa Maria police chief Marcos Rivero said five workers were immediately found dead at the site. Three more bodies were recovered overnight, and four of seven injured workers later died at the hospital, Mateo said.

An investigation was under way to determine the cause of the explosion, said Bulacan police chief Senior Superintendent Allen Bantolo.

Santa Maria lies about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Manila.

P63 million lottery jackpot won

MANILA, Philippines—A lone bettor won Tuesday’s Superlotto jackpot of P63,004,154.40 (\$1.31 million), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office said Wednesday.

PCSO spokesperson Larry Cedro told Inquirer that the bettor placed his bet at a market in Lipa, Batangas City. But the winner, he said, has not claimed the prize for the combination 42-12-34-9-28-6 as

of the close of office Wednesday.

On Feb. 22, two winners bagged the biggest lotto pot so far worth P347 million (\$7.23 million). On March 19, the jackpot of P85.1 million (\$1.77 million) was won also by a lone bettor.

Cedro said no draw would be held on Maundy Thursday in observance of the Lenten season, but normal operations would be back on Easter Sunday.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

Saving for graduate school

Editor’s Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

offer partial or full scholarships here and abroad. Check the Internet for what’s out there and keep an eye out for announcements in newspapers.

Talk to your employer.

Who knows, the company may want to send you to graduate school as a scholar. It never hurts to ask. You may be asked to sign a loyalty contract though which will require that you continue working for your employer during the duration of your graduate studies and after.

Consider applying for a loan.

Your bank, credit card, insurance company, the Social Security System, the GSIS, and even your employer may be a source of funds. Study what options you have and see if loan terms are agreeable to you and offer easy payment terms over the course of your studies. Since you will derive benefit from your graduate studies in the future, getting a loan for this purpose is considered good debt. Just make sure not to make your monthly debt obligations exceed one-third of your salary every month.

Try to increase your income while you’re saving for graduate school.

Find a sideline job you can work on every Saturday morning. Or pursue a hobby on weekends to add to your income then commit to save this for your tuition.

If you decide to go to graduate school full-time and let go of your present job, take in extra jobs at the university assisting in research projects and the like. Not only will you learn, you will also earn extra cash which may be used to help pay for your tuition.

Start saving for an emergency fund.

Every time you receive your paycheck, allot at least 10 percent for your emergency fund which is the fund you will dip into should unexpected events such as job loss or illness happen. Even if you feel that you are just making enough for your needs, try to make room for savings. Cut down on your other expenses.

Have a target school.

Find out how much the tuition fee is annually so you will have an idea of the amount you need to raise for tuition. In case your target school is on the expensive side, look for other schools that offer the same curriculum at a much lower fee. Determine if you can afford to go to graduate school full-time or you need to work part-time to pay for your bills.

Save for graduate school little by little.

Commit to set aside an amount monthly for your graduate school tuition. It may mean foregoing a gimmick with the barkada during payday, but the result in the future will be the realization of your dream. Set a target date to achieve your goal. Having a deadline will help you be more conscious of saving.

Scout for available scholarships.

MBA is a popular degree, and there are schools and organizations which

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

RUSHES

Junior star gets million-peso gift

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Major star surprised good friend Junior Star with a mind-boggling gift: a check for P1 million.

The hefty sum was for a fund-raising project of JS so her film could create attention in an international competition.

To think the movies of MS and JS once competed for the same honor.

Coming soon: TVJ5?

It's confirmed.

Vic Sotto has been tapped by TV5 as the host of the forthcoming revival of the game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

"With Vic on "Millionaire" and Joey de Leon on "Wow Mali," is Tito Sotto next in the struggling network's recruitment lineup?

Is TV5 being repackaged into TVJ 5?

Pugnacious Annabelle times two

Annabelle Rama is waging war on two fronts.

Apart from the damage suit filed by GMA 7 exec Wilma Galvante against her, Rama also has to contend with a word war with a local website.

She told Rushes that she's planning to file a case against the site because it came out with a "fabricated report" on son Richard Gutierrez.

Although the site has already apologized for the premature release of the contested article, Rama isn't appeased at all. "I want them to admit that the story was false. I want a public apology that would clear my son's name."

Missing in action

A News Anchor disappeared from the scene for a while—not only because of a high-profile event in the US.

NA was allegedly "suspended," according to a mole.

NA need not fret. Another much-respected Veteran Broadcaster was similarly "suspended," said another spy.

From Baseco to HK

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Actress Gina Pareño is no stranger to the slums of Baseco compound in Port Area, Manila.

"Shooting there is hard, but I've gotten used to it," she tells Inquirer Entertainment. "Ka-vibes ko mga tao do'n (I get along with the residents there.)"

She has worked in Baseco on three occasions: twice for the ABS-CBN drama anthology "Maalaala Mo Kaya," and for the opening scenes of the soap opera "Tayong Dalawa."

For her latest indie film, Ralston Jover's "Bakal Boys," she revisits Baseco and acts with actual slum dwellers—particularly real-life bakal boys or kids who dive for scrap metal in the fetid waters of the abandoned shipyard.

A show biz veteran, Gina knew how to handle young, inexperienced co-stars like Ian Villaroel, Vincent Alano, Meljun Guinto and JR Alano

It's true what a Top Honcho once said: The media company's disciplinary board is "mabagsik" (fierce).

Greta's at it again

Early last month, a rumor broke that Gretchen was thrown out of the house she shares with partner Tonyboy Cojuangco.

The scuttlebutt was debunked by friends. "This has happened before," said one. "They're on and off," said another.

Boy Abunda, Gretchen's manager, categorically denied it. "She won't hide it from me if there's a problem at home.

"Now, there's talk that Gretchen was spotted in Bohol escorted by a man other than Tonyboy.

Maybe the consort in question was just BB Gandanghari sans makeup?

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in PDI tabloid Bandera this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Ouch!

■ Pagbuka ng tahi ni Jennylyn Mercado malaking problema ng GMA. (So much for the concern.)

■ Gretchen Barreto hindi na mukhang dyosa; gurang na! (Harsh)

■ Gerald Anderson pinuputakti ng mga bading. Must you say it?

■ Mawala na ang iba, wag lang sex!—Boy Abunda (Oh-kay)

■ Kris Aquino araw-araw pinanggigilan ni James Yap. (Define "pinanggigilan")

■ Regine Velasquez tsimismis ang kakuriputan ni Kuh Ledesma. Again, again

■ Pagkatapos makipagbalikan kay Hayden Kho, mga anak ni Vicki Belo 'maglalayas.' Iba rin ang drama nina Hayden at Belo

■ Hayden hindi lalayuan ng tukso.

Rufa-Mo row

■ Rufa Mae Quinto suklam na suklam kay Mo Twister.

■ Rufa Mae 'nandidiri' kay Mo Twister.

■ DJ Mo dapat kastiguhin ng Syete.

who play the Bakal Boys.

"Siempre they can be makulit (hyperactive)," she says. So she sat down with them for a heart-to-heart. "I told them that if they do well in this movie, they can become symbols of hope for Baseco."

"Bakal Boys" reunites her with Jover, who wrote the script for "Kubrador," which won for her three international awards. She also hit it off with producers Albert Almendralejo and Bessie Badilla.

Still a thrill

Gina has grown accustomed to globe-trotting for her indie movies. She was recently named Best Supporting Actress for Dante Mendoza's "Serbis" at the 3rd Asian Film Awards, held in Hong Kong and dubbed the region's Oscars.

Although she insists that she's "contented" Gina admits that this latest trophy still gave her quite a thrill. "May kiliti pa rin (I still got tickled pink.)"

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"I feel very uncomfortable talking about money, or how much I'm worth," said controversial actress Gretchen Barreto at last week's launch of "Complicated," her second album under Star Records.

On the Sunday gabfest "The Buzz," Gretchen refused to answer Boy Abunda when he asked how much she was worth. At the launch, she explained that the subject was "too sensitive."

She added: "[They asked for] exact figures. I didn't know what to say. When I was more active in the business, I didn't think twice when people asked to see my house. *Pinaghirapan ko kasi 'yun*, bought with my own money. It's different now. I'd rather not put a price tag on things given to me as gifts."

Also at the album launch, Gretchen refused to discuss the status of her relationship with business tycoon Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, with whom she has a daughter, 14-year-old Dominique. Tabloids report that the couple have broken up. "I have to deal with that everyday. You'll know kapag hindi na complicat-ed," she simply said.

Gretchen, in a collared white mini-dress, and wearing a pair of black-and-white Christian Louboutin wedges and an Hermes necklace, sang two tunes from her 14-track CD. She complained that her voice was hoarse from falling ill after shooting the video for "Ready to Take a Chance Again," the carrier single.

She raffled off two of her Bulgari rings to members of the entertainment press. (Last December, at the launch of her now-defunct game show "You and Me Against the World," La Greta gave away a pair of Oscar de la Renta pumps.)



DJ Mo: Rufa Mae is 'bastos,' not me

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

After Rufa Mae Quinto's DJ Mo-bashing because he inadvertently dragged her name into the Vicki Belo-Hayden

Kho controversy, Mo fires back.

"Basically she called me bastos for asking her a question regarding an issue she was involved in," Mo said. "What

is more bastos, asking that question, or not showing up [for] our show and, instead, guesting on the rival program—which Rufa Mae did? Perhaps she expects to make millions from this biz but gets angry when an issue about her is questioned. It's unfair to our audience." The twists and turns in Mo Twister's controversial life never seem to end.

Mestizo date

Heart Evangelista was spotted being quite cozy with a mestizo skinhead at Powerplant Mall. Is the guy her businessman ex-BF, a new suitor, or just

a close friend? Eenie minie mini mo. Heart is for "kanino"?

Back to school



Charlene Gonzales and Aga Muhlach.

Charlene Gonzales is back to school in the United States. She's attending Business Management Entrepreneurship classes in Harvard for one month.

"It's good that I took up a one-on-one Mentorship Program in Business Management and Entrepreneurship at AIM (Asian Institute of Management)," says Charls. "And I have my B.S. Psychology degree from UST (University of Santo Tomas). It helped me in my Har-

Q: Did you pick the songs yourself?

A: Yes, I had three meetings with (line producer) Louie Ocampo and people from Star Cinema to discuss which songs suited me. We came up with 14. "This Far," is an original—Rachel Anne Wolfe wrote the lyrics to Archie Dy's melody.

Q: Do you feel connected to these songs?

A: Yes; songs are expressions of how one feels. I've felt all the emotions conveyed by these songs. For example, "I'll Be There For You" is one of my favorites. It describes my love for Dominique. And "Don't Say Goodbye" reminds me of my first love and heartbreak.

Q: Why didn't you just do a movie or teleserye?

A: I'm no longer fit to work long hours. When I did "Maalaala Mo Kaya," I got sick for three days. Kasi naman I worked for almost 24 hours. I don't think I can still work that hard three times a week for a teleserye. As for a movie, we're still looking for a good story. Tita Malou (Santos, Star Adprom head) says she's ready to present a script to me. It may be with Derek Ramsey—but nothing is final.

Q: There's a note on your album jacket for your "groom-to-be." Have you found the one? Are you ready to commit to him?

A: Somebody told me that you won't really know your groom-to-be until you're all dressed up and walking down the aisle to meet him at the altar. Marrying the man you love is every woman's dream. Let's leave it at that for now.

All I can say is, everything that happened in the past made me who I am today. There's a reason behind everything that's happened to me so far. There's no perfect life. The moment I realized that, I began to feel OK.

Gretchen Barreto recently launched "Complicated," her second album under Star Records.

vard application. I'm happy that Aga encourages me. We believe learning is a never-ending process. Our twins are excited for me and told me to ask if they can also enroll in Harvard."

Charlene is a certified Binibining B.B.—Beauty and Brains (and Aga's 'B.' too).

Guess list

■ An actor is appalled by how a TV host throws his weight around. "When he was still struggling, kinukulit niya ako parati maki-jam sa band ko," says the actor. "Ngayon big time na siya, dedma siya when I asked him if he remembers those times. At snob siya when I guested in his show, till he found out na I'm related to someone na may position. Biglang chummy na siya sa akin." Fame has a way of causing selective amnesia.

■ The co-stars of a young actress were stunned by her ostentatious display of bling-bling. Someone in the know insists that YA is the current apple of the eye of a prince. He reportedly had YA locked up in a hotel room for three days while he showered her with lavish gifts. Bewitched, bothered and bejeweled!

Maharlika – Opinyon

The passion and death of Juan de la Cruz

One, Juan is condemned to death. One morning, Juan de la Cruz wakes up to find he has been condemned to death. Or democracy has, which is his body, his spirit, his being. He wakes up to find a president he did not vote for, a ruler he did not assent to. It is a death sentence. Soon democracy will be no more, soon he will be no more.

Two, Juan is given his cross. That cross is someone who lied about going away, someone who stole Juan's money and his hope, and now has stolen his freedom and his vote. At least the person, or divinity, who once carried a burden as heavy as this, a weight as crushing as this, did so willingly to save the world. Juan does so unwillingly, unable to save himself.

Three, Juan falls the first time. Juan hears a tape recording of the ruler plotting with a Comelec official to usurp the throne. And plotting to kidnap the family of a witness to cheating along the way. He is incensed. But he is elated, too, knowing that is the end of the usurper. Alas, two blackguards come to the aid of the usurper in her desperate hour, and save her. Both get their just desserts. The first is ousted as speaker of the House, the second is reduced to obscurity, the richest punishment for someone who has always had an exaggerated view of his importance.

Four, Juan meets his mother. Corazon Aquino, the Joan of Arc of EDSA and spiritual mother of the nation, joined the clamor for the usurper's resignation, ouster, or demise, whichever came first. Though none of the above has happened, she continues to pursue it with much purpose. Even after she is stricken with a terrible affliction, offering hope, succor and guidance to those in need of them. Juan sees her look

at him with fortitude, through the tears in her eyes.

Five, Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross. The NGOs, the academe, several justices, several bishops, and media help carry Juan de la Cruz's cross. One is tempted to include the former government officials, but they helped foist the cross on Juan de la Cruz to begin with. And in any case, they just make it a point to lift the lightest part of the cross while making sure they are seen by everyone making the contribution.

Six, Veronica wipes the face of Juan. An angel, in the form of Angel Lagdameo, wipes the brow of Juan. It is a luminous act, especially after the Pharisees joined in condemning him to a slow and painful death, chortling "bad is good" without being Michael Jackson, though looking like him after the doctors wiped Jackson's black face white. Suddenly, a shaft of decency pierces through the ungodly temples.

Seven, Juan falls the second time. With the aid of several decent congressmen, however that seems like a contradiction in terms, Juan tries to impeach the usurper not just once but twice. But with the aid of Barabbas' descendants in Congress, Juan fails. One is tempted to say Barabbas' descendants disown him twice as the cock crowed, but they are nowhere near like Peter. Besides they make the idea of the cock crowing sound pornographic.

Eight, Juan meets the children of Jerusalem. In his abject state, Juan finally finds the eyes to see the plight of others. He sees the children who sleep in the streets, their brains fried by hunger and rugby, he sees the girls barely past puberty selling their bodies in dark alleys, without Sting's "Roxanne" to romanticize the fact. He realizes that stealing kills, it is the food plucked from the mouths of children, it is the roof ripped from the heads of children.

Nine, Juan falls the third time. Aided by a centurion named Danny, who repented after piercing Juan's side with his spear, Juan tried to

shake off his cross for a third time. Alas, with the aid of the chief centurion, the usurper kept him bound to it. The centurion Danny would be thrown to the dungeons for his pains while all the descendants of Cain, Barabbas and whoever it was who fathered rape would be set free.

Ten, Juan is stripped of his garments. Juan is stripped of his possessions, the pillage growing by the day. Juan is stripped of his life, the killings growing by the day. Juan is stripped of his spirit, his listlessness growing by the day. Juan is stripped of his dignity, his shame growing by the day. Juan is stripped of hope, his future dimming by the day.

Eleven, Juan is nailed to the cross. Juan wakes up every day to excruciating pain, the sensation being of nails driven to his hands. Or head. He has contracted heart disease, hypertension, cholera, and various other ailments, if not indeed being turned to stone, from looking at the modern-day Medusa.

Twelve, Juan dies on the cross. Like a headless chicken scampering about, too shocked to realize it is already dead, Juan ambles about too numb to realize he is already dead. While being nailed to the cross earlier, all he could mutter was: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Too dead to hear God's answer, which was: "Didn't you hear? I help only those who help themselves." It is not clear into whose hands Juan commands his spirit.

Thirteen, Juan is removed from the cross. Juan gets some respite from the agony and even glimpses ecstasy in new elections, one that promises to lift his cross from him finally. Elections have never done him much good, but better death than torture.

Fourteen, Juan is laid in the tomb. Even as he hopes so, Juan's tormentor prepares to torment him some more, cajoling Herod's descendants in Congress to alter the course of the stars, or change the Charter. Even as Juan dreams the dreams of the dead, he has been laid out in a dark and cavernous place, there to be buried forever.

Sometimes, the Resurrection is added as a fifteenth station of the Cross.

Question is, does Juan have one?



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

Choosing Barabbas

It is possible, as more than one thinker has suggested, to imagine hell as totally empty. Nobody is in it because of God's infinite mercy. That, at least, is how the argument goes.

Whatever we may think of this kind of justice, however, we can agree on one thing: It will not work on earth, and it is not meant to. Human justice means the criminally guilty must go to jail, and stay in it.

The exercise of executive clemency, therefore, cannot be used to replace human justice with political mercy. The act of grace that is executive clemency must be used to complete the work of justice, not undermine it.

But that is exactly what the Arroyo administration's newfound zeal for executive clemency has done: It has shaken the foundations of the administration of justice. The chilling consequence: President Macapagal-Arroyo is emptying the country's jails of some of the most notorious criminals of the last generation.

These thoughts assail us as we join the Christian faithful in marking the most important days of the liturgical calendar. Today's readings, in particular, remind us of where the Arroyo administration has gone astray. It has transformed into the unthinking crowd that is an unnerving presence in the Passion narrative in all four Gospels, the mob that chose Barabbas over Jesus.

That choice can only be the effect of moral confusion.

Since her shocking pardon of convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada, President Arroyo has gone on to bless other convicted criminals, including double-murderer Claudio Teehankee Jr., child rapist Romeo Jalosjos and double-murder mastermind Rodolfo Manalili, with executive clemency.

She has deliberately mixed her signals, including in the ambit of presidential grace the last batch of soldiers convicted in the murder of Ninoy Aquino as well as convicts from a poor background or suffering from old age.

She has also changed her tune. Her various spokesmen used to defend her exercise of executive clemency as part of a President's privilege (true); today they defend it as merely ministerial (decidedly false). That makes her Pontius Pilate, too, washing her hands of the terrible responsibility.

But in pardoning rich and powerful men like Estrada and Jalosjos, who share the dubious distinction of receiving clemency without accepting guilt or affecting remorse, the President becomes the cause of moral confusion.

Clemency is supposed to complete the work of justice, after a convict has undergone rehabilitation and reformed his ways. To bestow it on convicts like Estrada and Jalosjos, who proudly declare they did no wrong, despite abundant evidence and courageous judicial decisions, is to erode the ground on which the pillars of justice stand.

It is to choose Barabbas—and send Jesus to his death.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

What is 'Philippine' or 'national'?

During Lent and even other seasons, many Filipino homes regularly serve mongo soup on Fridays. Although mongo is high in uric acid and could contribute to an attack of gout, I always enjoy a steaming bowl of mongo especially if made deadlier with "chicharon" [crisp-fried pork skin]. While we are very lenient about fasting and abstinence during Lent, one notices that fast-food chains that make a killing on meat burgers and fried chicken put up Lenten specials that offer a fish option to the devout or to those on a diet. Seafood becomes an option during these days, leading some people to comment that Lent is not just a sacrifice for the appetite but also for the pocket because some fish, shrimp and shellfish can be slightly more expensive than beef or pork. But if expense is the problem, then fasting is the solution.

Last week, on Ash Wednesday and on the first Friday of Lent, I sat across from people at table with a dilemma: They had been served meat and didn't know how to react. To them I repeated Oscar Wilde's famous advice: "The best way to deal with temptation is to give in to it."

There has been much email reaction to my column on "adobo" last week, especially from those who want schoolchildren and the general public to know "national" things. As I mentioned in that column, to my knowledge, there are only three things declared "national" by law: the sampaguita or *jasminum sambac* (national flower) and narra or *pterocarpus indicus* (national tree/wood), both of which were declared before the World War II, and more recently the Philippine eagle or *pithecopaga jefferyi*, more popularly known as the monkey-eating eagle, (our national bird and, not, as previously believed, the maya).

If you take a poll and ask people what our national animal is, they are likely to say it is the carabao or *bubalus bubalis carabensis*. It may come as a surprise to many Filipinos that the carabao is the national animal of Guam, having imported these hard-working, domesticated water buffalo from the Philippines in the 17th century.

We are in for more surprises, because one of the iconic symbols of Singapore, the merlion, was appropriated from Manila. The merlion has been associated with the "the distinguished and every loyal" City of Manila when its coat of arms was granted in 1596. Here we see a merlion, with the lion holding a sword aloft while its lower half is the graceful curled end of a dolphin's tail.

Most Filipinos generally agree that Jose Rizal is the national hero, but some people insist that it should be Andres Bonifacio. During the preparations for the 1998 Philippine Centennial, President Fidel V. Ramos wanted to settle this issue by legislation because to-date



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

there is no law declaring Rizal our national hero; Rizal has always been regarded as such by acclamation and tradition. A group of historians was assembled and after discussion, our pantheon was arranged into national heroes and local heroes. Thus, Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini, Aguinaldo, Jacinto, Luna, etc. are all national heroes, but from this list Rizal emerged as the prime national hero. The conclusions and recommendations were transmitted to Ramos who, in his wisdom, took no action.

How do we deal with people who persist in proclaiming themselves in "praise releases" as "national artist"? They are not in the roster of national artists, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines or the National Commission for Culture and the Arts should officially call their attention on this before shaming them publicly for misrepresentation. Can we say that National Bookstore is indeed the Philippines' national bookstore when its founder Socorro "Super Nanay" Ramos admits that when she opened shop over seven decades ago, she was at a loss on what to call her bookstore, and then she saw the word "national" on her cash register. Needless to say, that cash register has been busy ever since.

Is the word "national" restricted to government agencies? For example, the National Printing Office or the National Bureau of Investigation or the National Statistics Office are government agencies, but can the words "Philippine" and "national" be used by private concerns. For example, the Philippine National Bank and Philippine Airlines that used to be government owned are now in private hands. Do they continue to be Philippine and National? Two rival historical associations are called the Philippine Historical Association and the Philippine National Historical Society. There are many other examples, like the Philippine Bar Flunkers Association. I am just wondering aloud, but should we regulate or at least define what "Philippine" and what Filipinos should consider "national"?

There is no argument when it comes to: our national flag, our national anthem ("Lupang hinirang," not "Bayang magiliw," which are the first two words of the anthem), and the Great Seal of the Republic as described in our Constitution. We have no argument with sampaguita, narra, and the Philippine eagle that have been declared national by law. But look at Wikipedia, which has become the bible of this generation. This website has fed us "unofficial" national symbols, like cariñosa (national dance), anahaw (national leaf), mango (national fruit), etc. We are in for an exciting debate on this issue once the can of worms is opened.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ANNUAL TREK

Thousands of children and adults join the annual pilgrimage to Mount Tapochau as part of the observance of Good Friday yesterday.

CNMI POWER
Right, CNMI Power Corp. officers and members prepare to take down their tent after providing free water, coffee, boiled eggs, boiled bananas, congee, mangoes and other foods to children and adults walking to and from Mount Tapochau as part of Good Friday observance yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



JAYVEE VALLEJERA

BICOL ASSOCIATION

Members and officers of the Bicol Association give out water to people walking down Mt. Tapochau after yesterday's Good Friday pilgrimage.



JHEM'S RESTAURANT

Jhem's Restaurant proprietor Beth Miyata, front, third from left, joins her staff and personnel in distributing food and drinks to people walking to the peak of Mt. Tapochau yesterday morning as part of the annual Good Friday pilgrimage.



UNITED FILIPINO ORGANIZATION

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization take a break from handing out free food and drinks to thousands who joined yesterday's trek to Mount Tapochau in observance of Good Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Far left, belated happy birthday to Mommy Minda Indalecio who celebrated her birthday last Sunday, April 5, 2009, at her residence in Dandan Homestead, Saipan. Greetings coming from the Sto. Nino Group Saipan. Here, the celebrant, seated second from left, second row, poses with some members of the Sto Nino Group Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, Mommy Minda Indalecio poses with her friend Vicky.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Attorney General oversees 100,000 workers, but he's still late for pizza

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Lots of kids like to play cops and robbers. Eric H. Holder Jr. doesn't have to pretend: He is the nation's top cop — and its chief lawyer, too!

Holder is the 82nd U.S. attorney general in the nation's history. But he is the first black to hold the job.

His selection by our first black president, Barack Obama, shows the racial progress the country has made since the end of slavery, Holder said.

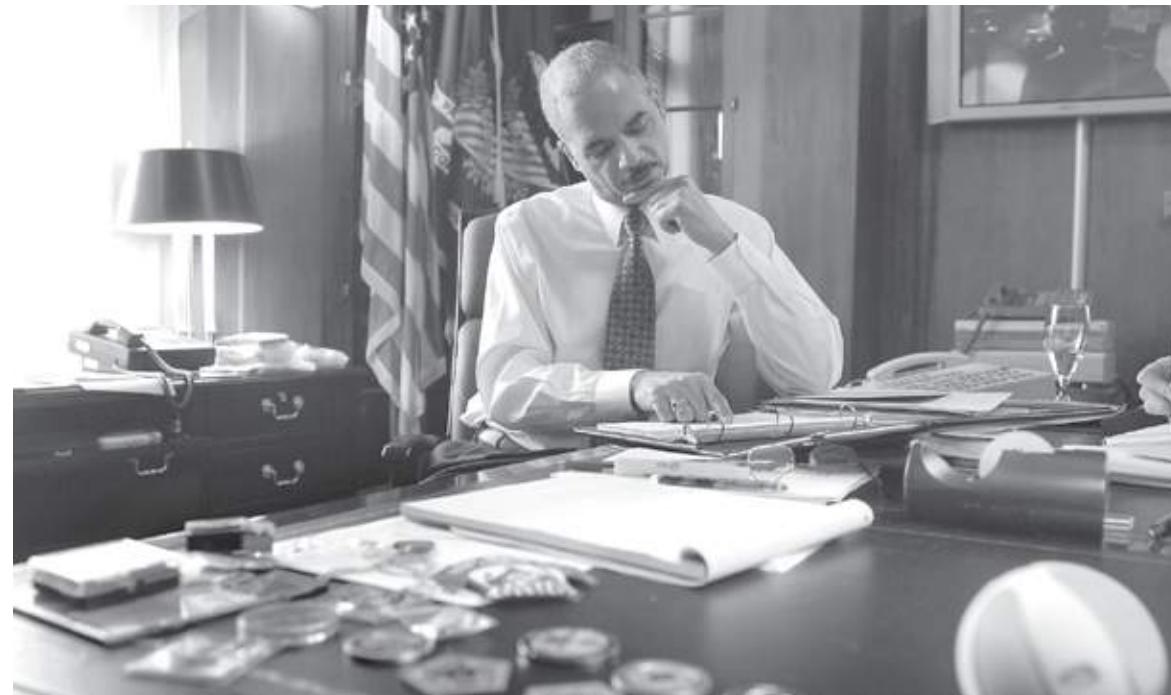
"It's very cool," he said. "We have fundamentally changed."

As head of the Department of Justice, Holder has a huge job. He is in charge of about 100,000 people. They work to enforce the nation's laws, prevent and control crime, and take to court people who violate U.S. law.

Among the agencies in the department are the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Prisons and the FBI, or Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Can you figure out what they each do by their titles? Learn more at www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/kidspage.)

Holder, 58, starts every workday with an 8:15 a.m. meeting at the FBI headquarters downtown. There, he and other top officials talk about things that could affect the country's security.

He then usually goes to his very big office nearby at the Justice Department's headquarters, checks a



THE WASHINGTON POST

Attorney General Eric Holder says that kids can play a big role in helping to improve their communities. "Young people can be a positive influence to their peers," says Holder, pictured in his office on Capitol Hill.

Meet Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General

(C) 2009, The Washington Post

Born: New York City

Schools: Columbia University, Columbia Law School

What's on his iPod: The Temptations, Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald ("I guess I'm not very cool.")

Favorite Song: "So Amazing" by Luther Vandross

Nickname as a Kid: Ricky

Favorite Subject in School: American history

Worst Subject in School: Calculus ("not even close")

Favorite Pizza Topping: Cheese or sausage

Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate chip

Least Favorite Foods: Brussels sprouts, raw spinach

Favorite Sport: Basketball

Favorite Teams: The Knicks and the Lakers

Loves to Do With His Kids: Watch movies

black book packed with information about his daily schedule, and stays busy all day and into the night.

His desk boasts a collection of medallions from police departments and other places he has visited. There is, too, a small basketball, a gift from the president of the Women's National Basketball Association.

Holder, like President Obama, loves basketball but said he doesn't think playing Obama would be a great idea. "He's a little younger than I am," he said, laughing. Obama, in fact, is 11 years younger!

Holder grew up in New York City, went to public schools and has served as a judge, a U.S. attorney (a federal official who prosecutes people in court), a deputy attorney general and a private lawyer.

He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Sharon Malone, a doctor, and their three children, Maya, 15, Brooke, 13, and Buddy, 11. Friday night is pizza night at their house, but he is often late.

"By the time I get home, there usually is not much pizza left, and what's left is pretty cold," he said with a smile.

Holder said that kids can play a big role in helping to improve their communities, in part by being good role models to other kids.



THE WASHINGTON POST

A carving in a conference room has holes from BB gun pellets, five holes just to the right of center. Attorney General Eric Holder says the room was Robert F. Kennedy's when he was attorney general, and his kids shot at the artwork.



THE WASHINGTON POST

On his desk, Attorney General Eric Holder has a collection of medallions from police departments and other places he has visited. The small basketball was a gift from the president of the Women's National Basketball Association.

"Young people have a way of talking to other young people that older people don't," he said. "They can break through barriers with words

and music. Young people can be a positive influence to their peers."

The attorney general is a member of what is called the president's Cabinet. It is made up of the vice president and people the president has chosen to run top government departments.

The attorney general is special (and not only because all the other department heads are given the title of "secretary," as in Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton).

The job of other department heads is to put into place the president's policies. Holder advises the president on law enforcement policy, but the attorney general's job is to uphold the laws, even laws that the president may not like.

The fact that the United States was created to run on laws and not on the whims of a dictator has set this country apart from many others.

That, Holder said, is something he never forgets: "Ours is a nation of laws, guided by principles that reflect the essential goodness of the American people. ... The true test of our nation's greatness is whether we uphold our most cherished principles, not when it is easy, but when it is hard. Our nation ... has met this test in times past. We will do so again."

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post



Fred Bowen writes is an author of sports novels for kids.

Who'll win the green jacket at the Masters?

MASTERS FACT

(C) 2009, The Washington Post

Jack Nicklaus has won more Masters championships (six) than any other golfer.

The Masters is maybe the most famous golf tournament in the world. Even if you are a kid who doesn't play golf, or thinks golf is boring, you may want to watch this year's tournament, which ends Sunday.

The Masters is always exciting. It is played on the same golf course, Augusta National, every year. Bobby Jones, a legendary golfer of the 1920s and '30s, started the Masters tournament and helped design Augusta National in Georgia. He made the course beautiful and tricky so that the Masters would have close, dramatic finishes.

This year's Masters should be even more exciting than most because so many great players have a chance to make history. Let's take a look at some of the tournament's top players.

Tiger Woods: This is Tiger's first major tournament since he took eight months off to recover from knee surgery after he won the 2008 U.S. Open. Tiger showed his leg is 100 percent by winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational two weeks ago in typical Tiger fashion, rolling in a clutch putt on the last hole.

Tiger has won the Masters four times. He is the best golfer in the world and terrific at putting on Augusta's lightning-fast greens. So Tiger has to be the favorite to win the green jacket that traditionally goes to the winner of each year's Masters.

Phil Mickelson: Phil the Thrill is my favorite golfer. He's so unpredictable. On one hole, Mickelson will make an unbelievable shot or curve in a long birdie putt. On the next, he will fly his ball into big trouble. But when Mickelson is playing well, he is as good as anyone, including Tiger. Right now, Mickelson is playing great. He has won two tournaments so far this year and seems primed to win his third Masters.

Padraig Harrington: The steady golfer from Ireland has won the last two major golf tournaments, the 2008 British Open and PGA Championship. Of course, Tiger was injured during those tournaments and did not play. Harrington is trying to prove he can beat Tiger and become only the fourth golfer to win three majors in a row. The others? Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan and, yes, Tiger Woods. Harrington looked as if he was ready until the last round at last week's Houston Open, when he shot a 77. Harrington better not shoot a 77 this weekend or he won't stand a chance.

Some Surprise Player: Little-known pros Zach Johnson and Trevor Immelman have won the last two Masters. Golf tournaments are so close and hard-fought that lesser-known players often slip into the winner's circle.

This week, keep your eye on Geoff Ogilvy, Nick Watney and 19-year old Rory McIlroy from Northern Ireland. They are all playing well and could surprise the big names.

Whoever wins, the Masters is always worth watching.

Who's in the President's Cabinet?

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The Cabinet includes the vice president and the heads of 15 executive departments. The president gets to choose the people for these jobs, but the Senate votes to approve or reject his choices.

Here are those departments and who is leading them:

Agriculture: Tom Vilsack

Commerce: Gary Locke

Defense: Robert Gates

Education: Arne Duncan

Energy: Steven Chu

Health and Human Services: Kathleen Sebelius*

Homeland Security: Janet Napolitano

Housing and Urban Development:

Shaun Donovan

Interior: Ken Salazar

Justice: Eric Holder

Labor: Hilda Solis

State: Hillary Rodham Clinton

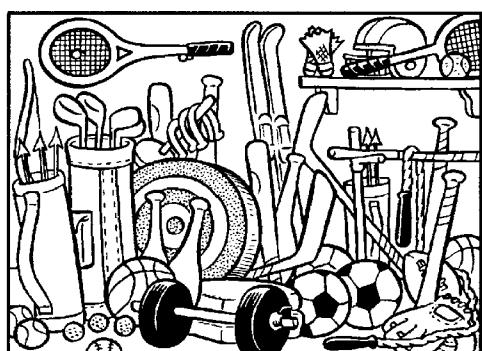
Transportation: Ray LaHood

Treasury: Timothy Geithner

Veterans Affairs: Eric Shinseki

* Not yet sworn in.

SOURCE: www.whitehouse.gov



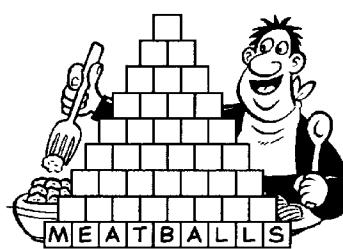
THE COACH IS GIVING the sports locker a spring cleaning. Try counting up every single item in the locker and see if you come up with our total.

Answer: We found 41 items.

A TRICKY CHALLENGE!

Place seven coins on the table and challenge your friends to arrange them in four rows, each row containing three coins. One solution is shown to the right.

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER



Starting with the given word MEATBALLS at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with MEATBALLS.

1. Italian treats.
2. To scold sharply.
3. Mexican treats.
4. Found in the ground.
5. Yesterday's bread.
6. Dark bluish-green.
7. To consume.
8. In or near.
9. Your score if you get this far.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Meatballs, stale, eat, lambs, tease, tamale, metals, stale, tea, tea room, 6. Tea master.

LET'S HAVE A "TEA" PARTY! In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with TEA. The following hints should help:

1. TEA (in place).
2. A hard wood.
3. To enlighten.
4. A tough problem.
5. Fortune-tellers hang out here.
6. A freight hauler.

Answers: 1. Tea, 2. Teak, 3. Tease, 4. Teaser, 5. Teasroom, 6. Teasmaster.



Illustrated by David Coulson

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was author Michael Pollan who made the following sage observation: "A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule."

■ I bet you didn't know there's a word specifically used to refer to the space between your eyebrows. Yep: It's called the "ophryon."

■ It's not clear exactly why, but the United States' first first lady, Martha Washington, burned all the letters that President George Washington sent to her. And President Warren G. Harding's widow, Florence Harding, burned nearly all of his papers after his death.

■ If you're a runner—and a compulsive counter—you might already be aware of the fact that the average person's feet hit the ground approximately 800 times per mile when running.

■ A man who worked as a blacksmith in a small Russian village found what he was told was a dummy cannon shell that had been used for training purposes, and he decided it would make a great anvil. Unfortunately, it turns out that the shell wasn't a dummy after all; it exploded, killing the blacksmith—but not until after he'd been using it for 10 years.

■ Those who study such things say that famed German composer Ludwig von Beethoven was a coffee drinker who was very picky about his java. Evidently, exactly 60 coffee beans had to be ground for each cup—and he would insist on having them counted out every time.

■ The next time you're tempted to whip out the plastic to make a purchase, you might want to consider this little factoid: The average American spends 20 percent to 30 percent more when using a credit card than when paying with cash.

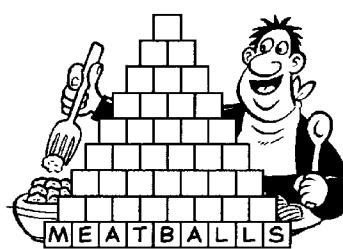
Thought for the Day: "The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it." —Patrick Young

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER



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Answers: (from the bottom up): Meatballs, stale, eat, tea room, 6. Tea master.

MAGIC MAZE ● GEORGE BURNS QUOTES

T V R N K G C Z V E S P L I E
B Y V R O L I F C Z L W T Q N
K I F C Z W U R P M J P H E C
Z X U S Q N L E S R E W O L F
J G E C H U N D R E D Z X E V
T R P W N O L J H M D E G O P
C A Y W E Y T D I E P A S T V
T R P B M F I N V R T L M E K
I G E T C I T U B A Y R E V Z
X W A U S R O P H C O M L I J
I G E D B Y G T A S Y X W L U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

At my If you you've few
age live to got it people
(clue answer) be one made. die past
scare me. hundred, Very that age.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

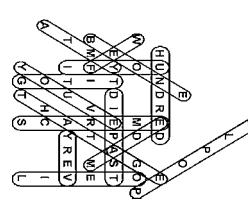
DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		x		14
+		+	x		
	+		+		23
x	x		-		
	x		+		20
33	36	34			
1	2	3	4	6	7
8	8	9			

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

33	36	34
3	x 4	+ 8 20
	x	-
9	+ 8	6 23
	+	x
2	÷ 1	x 7 14

GEORGE BURNS QUOTES

Give kids another chance for pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I am appalled, angered and saddened by the response from Dori to the parent who wrote you after her children's goldfish died because they didn't take care of it. She said the children were set up to fail. Wow.

I hope this person does not have children. If she believes that a child is set up for failure, the child will believe he or she is a failure and will not try to improve and grow mentally. I cannot see how a parent could feel right by instilling this in a child's mind!

So, a goldfish was not cared for, and died. While this is sad and maybe could have been avoided, it is not completely the child's fault. For one thing, goldfish are very susceptible to disease and overeating, which can cause death. Parents should always supervise the care of a pet, for sure, but that does not mean taking complete care of it.

Children need to learn structure and respect for living things. A goldfish is a very good start. They mainly need clean water, nutritional food and possibly occasional medicine. Children have to learn about their pet, and a goldfish can be a great start with the proper supervision from parents and a book to read (or parents can read to them) about the needs of that specific pet.



As for the parent's question about whether to get another pet, I think she could get the child a hamster or Guinea pig. This pet would be much more interactive and enjoyable. I know that if the parents supervise and stick to the structure, the child will take care of the pet.—Lora S., via e-mail

DEAR LORA: Great answer. Thank you for giving readers something to think about.

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Easter bread made in a tin can

Appearing on public-television stations nationwide, "Donna's Day" features creative ideas from this column to help you make time with kids count. Like the content you read every week, the series is filled with ideas, games, recipes and projects to strengthen family life.

One of my favorite segments of Donna's Day takes place at the epicenter of family life: the kitchen! The yummy recipes come from many cultures to inspire you to bring home the world. Spin a globe and watch it land on Russia for our zing-into-spring recipe for Kulich, a Russian Easter bread, traditionally made in a tin can. I've made some shortcuts so that you and your kids can enjoy making this fabulous recipe together.



When cool, remove from can and set upright on a serving platter. Drizzle glaze over the top and let it drip down the sides. Sprinkle with candies if you wish.

To serve:

Cut off the dome top and set aside. Slice bread.

For a special treat, spread a mixture of cream cheese, currants, raisins and chopped almonds on each slice.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Spears' Vancouver concert halted for 30 minutes

The new and improved Britney Spears apparently isn't a fan of cigarette smoke—or any other kind of smoke, for that matter—while she's performing.

The 27-year-old pop star left the stage for about 30 minutes during a concert in Vancouver on Wednesday night, apparently because of smoke in the audience.

According to The Vancouver Sun, Spears' concert was halted about 15 minutes into her performance, and an announcer told concertgoers to put out their cigarettes. Some audience members grew impatient while waiting for Spears and her



Spears

troupe to return to the stage, the Sun reported.

After she returned and ended

the show, Spears—who has been to rehab and is on the comeback trail after a long stretch of troubles—told the crowd, "Don't smoke weed."

Spears' publicist, Holly Shadoor, issued a statement apologizing to fans about the delay. The statement said "crew members above the stage became ill due to a ventilation issue."

Spears began her "Circus" tour of the United States, Canada and England on March 3 in New Orleans. Her father and attorneys are exploring the possibility of expanding the tour to include more shows in Europe and Australia.

Kanye says 'South Park' put him in check

NEW YORK (AP)—"South Park" may have accomplished the impossible—getting Kanye West to check his ego. The Comedy Central show skewered the famously self-important rapper on its show Wednesday night, painting him as a narcissistic figure so out of touch with reality he couldn't even take a (very politically incorrect) joke. West's love of himself and his work has been almost as integral to his image as his music: Just last year, he told The Associated Press that he was the "voice of this generation." Also recently, he was quoted as saying his greatest regret was not being able to see himself perform live. Yet, on his blog Thursday, West appeared chastened, and ready to turn over a new leaf.

In typical all-caps mode, he wrote: "SOUTH PARK MURDERED ME LAST NIGHT AND IT'S PRETTY FUNNY. IT HURTS MY FEELINGS BUT WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM SOUTH PARK! I ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON MY EGO THOUGH. HAVING THE CRAZY EGO IS PLAYED OUT IN MY LIFE AND CAREER."

West said that he started stroking his ego long ago to build up his self esteem—but he now realizes he needs to "GET PAST MYSELF."

In the self-reflective post, he said that people won't take



AP
In this March 15, 2009 file photo, rapper Kanye West attends the Metropolitan Opera 125th anniversary gala at Lincoln Center, in New York.

him seriously if he keeps it up (perhaps referring to his well-documented meltdowns at awards shows when he didn't win what he expected).

"I JUST WANT TO BE A DOPPER PERSON WHICH STARTS WITH ME NOT ALWAYS TELLING PEO-

PLE HOW DOPE I THINK I AM," he said.

And perhaps to show that he's really serious about making that change, he provided a link to one of the most biting moments from the "South Park" show, and thanked the writers as well.

Neeson to star as Zeus in 'Clash of the Titans'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Liam Neeson is set to begin work on his first film since the death of his wife, Natasha Richardson.

Neeson will play Zeus, king of the gods, in a remake of "Clash of the Titans" opposite Ralph Fiennes as Hades, ruler of the underworld. Louis Leterrier ("Transporter 2," last year's "The Incredibles") will direct the film, which is scheduled to begin production in the United Kingdom later this month, Warner Bros. said Thursday.

Longtime friends Neeson and Fiennes haven't shared the screen



Neeson

since 1993's "Schindler's List." Also among the cast are "Casino Royale" villain Mads Mikkelsen, Sam Worthington of the upcoming "Terminator Salvation" and Alexa Davalos ("Defiance").

The original "Clash of the Titans" from 1981 starred Laurence Olivier as Zeus. This marks the first project

Neeson's most recent movie, the kidnapping thriller "Taken," became a surprise hit with nearly \$140 million at the domestic box office earlier this year. He just finished work on the Atom Egoyan film "Chloe," which he was in the middle of shooting when his wife died.

David Caruso's ex-girlfriend sues for money, house

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Caruso's ex-girlfriend is seeking more than \$1.2 million and a house she says the "CSI: Miami" star promised her.

Liza Marquez sued Caruso in Los Angeles Superior Court on Thursday, claiming he promised to support her even after their nearly four-year relationship ended.

In her complaint, Marquez paints Caruso as a possessive, jealous boyfriend who was a reluctant father. The suit claims Caruso, 53, was verbally abusive to Marquez on several occasions

and told her that he envisioned himself on a yacht in the French Riviera, not as a father.

Marquez's suit states she and



Caruso

Caruso was affectionate and caring in public, but withdrew from Marquez to a second home as the relationship deteriorated, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit states Caruso ended their relationship two days after she gave birth to their second child in October 2007. It claims the couple later reached an agreement that that actor would pay Marquez \$1 million and \$200,000 in attorney's fees, and give her a home in the San Fernando Valley.

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Observe And Report

Friday 4:15 7:30 10:00
Sat and Sun 1:10 4:15 7:30 10:00
Monday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:30

Seth Rogen, Anna Faris

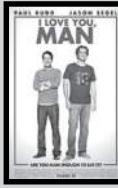
Comedy • Rated R



You Changed My Life

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:40
Sat and Sun 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:40
Monday 1:25 4:30 7:15
Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:15

John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah Geronimo
Romance, Comedy • Rated NR



I Love You, Man

Friday 4:00 7:05 9:55
Sat and Sun 1:00 4:00 7:05 9:55
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:05
Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:05

Paul Rudd, Jason Segel

Comedy • Rated R



Fast & Furious

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sat and Sun 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:45
Monday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:20

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker

Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



The Haunting in Connecticut

Friday 4:20 7:25 9:45
Sat and Sun 1:20 4:20 7:25 9:45
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:25
Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:25

Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13



Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35
Sat and Sun 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:00
Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:00

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie

Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG



Knowing

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
Sat and Sun 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30
Monday 1:15 4:10 7:10
Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Police: Country singer Doug Stone charged in fight

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Police say country musician Doug Stone faces domestic battery charges after officers allegedly found him holding his son in a chinlock during a fight at a Florida resort.

Maj. David Humphreys of the Panama City Beach Police Department says officers were called Thursday to a condominium at the Grand Panama Beach Resort to break up a fight between the 52-year-old Stone and his 21-year-old son. Humphreys says the son's face was bloody and that Stone had him on the ground in a chinlock when officers arrived.

Stone had numerous country hits in the 1990s, including "I'd be Better Off in a Pine Box," "In a Different Light" and "Why Didn't I Think of That."

Lance Cowan, a spokesman for Stone, called the incident a family matter and said Stone had no immediate comment.

John Rich says aspiring country star defamed him

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star John Rich has sued a former "Nashville Star" contestant, saying the aspiring singer defamed him by claiming Rich hit him in the face. Rich filed the lawsuit Monday against Jared Ashley, a contestant during the fourth season of the TV show. Rich claims Ashley entered his private club without permission and had to be removed by security on March 13.

Rich also contends that Ashley defamed him by falsely stating during a radio interview that Rich hit him that night. Rich is part of the musical duo Big & Rich and a former judge on the show.

Ashley said Thursday that Rich's claims are not true.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

No regrets, says eliminated 'Idol' MacIntyre



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scott MacIntyre says he's glad for the stage that "American Idol" gave him to share his story and his music.

The visually impaired MacIntyre, who was voted off this week, says he hopes his achievement of making the Fox singing competition's finals "encourages everyone to reach for their dreams" and never give up.

There was debate among the judges Wednesday about using their one-shot chance to save the contestant with the lowest number of audience votes.

MacIntyre, 23, of Scottsdale, Ariz., said he spoke to Simon Cowell afterward and sensed the "inner turmoil" the judge felt in ruling against him.

MacIntyre says he stands by his performance of "The Search Is Over" and is looking forward to the "American Idol" concert tour.

AP In this image released by Fox, contestant Scott MacIntyre, right, is embraced by other contestants after he was eliminated from the singing competition series, "American Idol," in Los Angeles on Wednesday, April 8, 2009.

FBI: E-mail promising 'Oprah' tickets fake

CHICAGO (AP)—The FBI and "The Oprah Winfrey Show" say Internet users should beware of an e-mail scam that promises attendance at the popular talk show in exchange for the purchase of a plane ticket.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center said this week that a circulating e-mail was advertising the "Oprah Millionaire Contest Show," which asks recipients for contact information. It also says those who apply have a chance to win \$1 million.

The bureau says the e-mail is fraudulent and not from Winfrey or her show's production company, or Harpo Productions.

Harpo has posted a warning about the scam on the show's Web site. It says authorities told them at least a dozen scams currently promise tickets, travel and money from the Chicago-based show.

AP In this Dec. 5, 2008 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at The Hollywood Reporter's annual Women in Entertainment Breakfast in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Miley Cyrus movie to be shot in Savannah

Singer Miley Cyrus performs on ABC's 'Good Morning America', Wednesday, April 8, 2009, in New York.



ATLANTA (AP)—The governor's office in Georgia says the Disney movie "The Last Song," starring Miley Cyrus, will be filmed in Savannah this summer.

Georgia had been contending with North Carolina for the film, which the governor's office says will bring about 250 jobs to the state.

The script is by novelist Nicholas Sparks, and Julie Anne Robinson will direct. Shooting is expected to begin in June.

Besides Savannah, the governor's office said the film will be shot at nearby coastal locations.

Cyrus, star of the "Hannah Montana" television series and films, will be playing another character this time.

Country star Joe Nichols plans Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—

Country music singer Joe Nichols has his sights set on Broadway, perhaps as



Nichols

soon as early 2010.

Producer Randall L. Wreghitt says the four-time Grammy nominee will star in a stage version of the hit 1992 movie "Pure Country," which featured George Strait and Lesley Ann Warren. Wreghitt says further casting for the musical is now under way, as is the process of securing the remainder of the show's financing.

The movie has been adapted for the stage by Peter Masterson and will have a score by Steve Dorff, who wrote songs for the movie, including two number-one country singles, "Heartland" and "I Cross My Heart." Both will be in the stage version.

Family feuds over passing of plate from bargain buffet

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: We recently got together with extended family to celebrate a child's birthday at a family-oriented restaurant. One of the adults began bragging about how she had saved money because she paid for only one salad plate from the "all you can eat" salad bar.

When she finished eating her salad, she passed her plate to another family member, who then had his fill and passed the plate along until all their immediate family members had eaten.

We told her it was dishonest, that she's stealing food from the restaurant because she didn't pay for all the salads that were actually consumed by her family. She claimed that it wasn't dishonest because it's "all" you can eat. This has caused a huge disagreement within the family. What say you?



Dear Abby

STEAMED AT THE SALAD BAR IN COLORADO

DEAR STEAMED: Of course it's dishonest; it's stealing. The sign read, "All you can eat," not "All you and your family can eat—for the price of one."

I don't know what this person's financial status is, but from where I sit, she appears to be morally bankrupt, and she's passing along her lack of ethics to the next generation. Keep your distance. Folks like these are apt to help themselves to anything that isn't nailed down.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a rare autoimmune disease that will end my life within a couple of years. After not dating for 15 years, I met a wonderful man. Even though I tried not to, we fell in love. I think I should break it off with him because he has lost two wives to cancer and I don't want him hurt again.

Right now my health is still halfway decent, and we can go out and have a great time together. But all that's going to happen is we will grow closer and closer, and he's the one who will lose in the long run.

He doesn't deserve to lose someone else he loves. It's not fair. Is it wrong to keep dating him, or should I break it off while we still have good memories?

SLOWLY DYING IN TEXAS

DEAR SLOWLY DYING: Is this gentleman aware of your illness and the prognosis? If the answer is yes, then he is fully aware of what will eventually happen—and you should allow him to have a say in whether the relationship continues or not. No one is guaranteed tomorrow, next week or next year. My advice is to enjoy every precious minute you have together to the fullest, stop feeling guilty about it and live in the present.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 6 feet, 5 inches tall and weigh 240. My wife is 5 feet, 8 inches and weighs 140. We sleep in a queen-sized bed and have always had a playful debate about "my" side of the bed.

She contends that she should have half the bed, but I say I deserve more space because I'm bigger—therefore, the bed should be divided 60/40. Marriage isn't always 50-50, right?

GOING BY THE NUMBERS, LAKE CHARLES, LA.

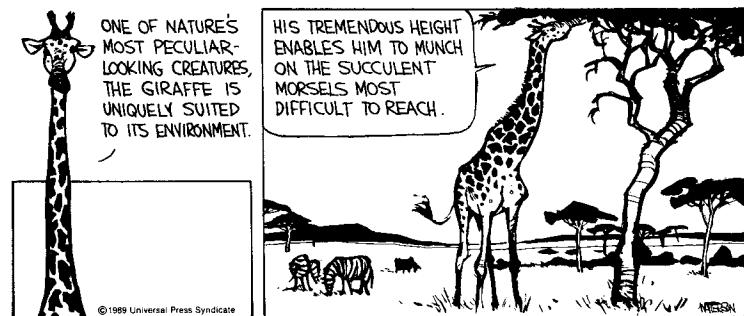
DEAR GOING BY THE NUMBERS: No, sometimes marriage is 90/10. While you may be "entitled" to only 50 percent of the bed, the fact is that the size differential between you and your wife is so great that you need some extra real estate. So ask her to be gracious and grant you an easement. Either that or invest in a larger bed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

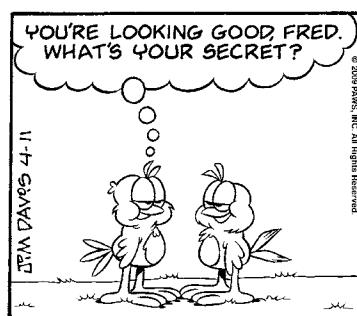
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

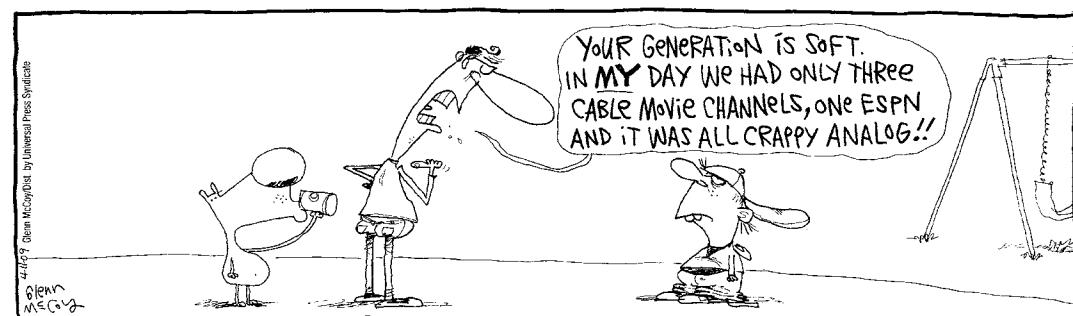
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



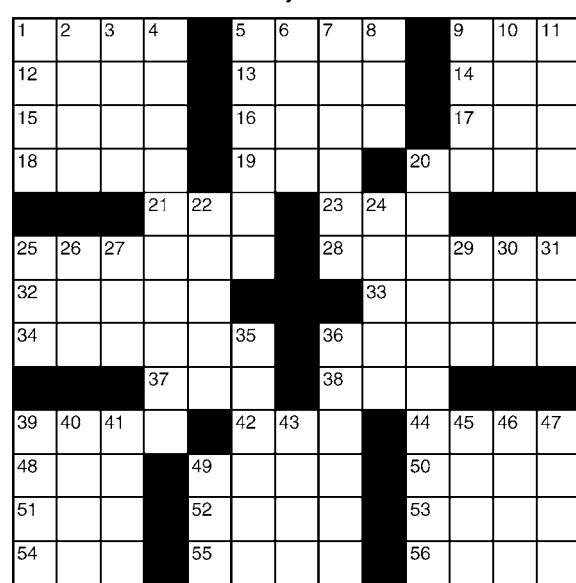
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Binges	2	Second-story man?	22	"The Old — Bucket"	
1	Coin aperture	42	Plant prickle	3	Possesses	24	Ecstasy
5	— support	44	Stereo setup	4	Orna-mental yellow-brown stones	25	Booker T.'s backup band
9	Performance	48	Raw rock	5	Mortar-board attachment	26	Playwright Levin
12	New Zealander	49	Island near Java	6	Reverberate	27	Stitch
13	Rue the run	50	Help a hood	7	Khaki pants	29	Praise in verse
14	Pi follower	51	Long. crosser	8	Coop occupant	30	Wrestling win
15	Masculine principle	52	Sicilian spouter	9	Vicinity	31	Perched
16	Leg part	53	Anatomical network	10	At the home of (Fr.)	35	Money-back offer
17	Still, in verse	54	Celeb gossip source	11	Broadway award	36	Antenna
18	Gaelic	55	Trans-action	12	Largest portion	39	A bit of a shock
19	Trinity member	56	Physical	13	Terrier type	40	Composer Khachaturian
20	Indolent			14		41	Stan of jazz
21	Fish eggs			15		43	Radius' neighbor
22	Kimono closer			16		45	Mountain goat
23	Church songbook			17		46	Crumbly cheese
24	Sailing vessels			18		47	Particular
25	Like 14 Across			19		49	Foundation
26	Variety of ink			20			
27	Finn's pal			21			
28	Agree			22			
29	Away from WSW			23			
30	Double curve			24			
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Yesterday's answer 4-11



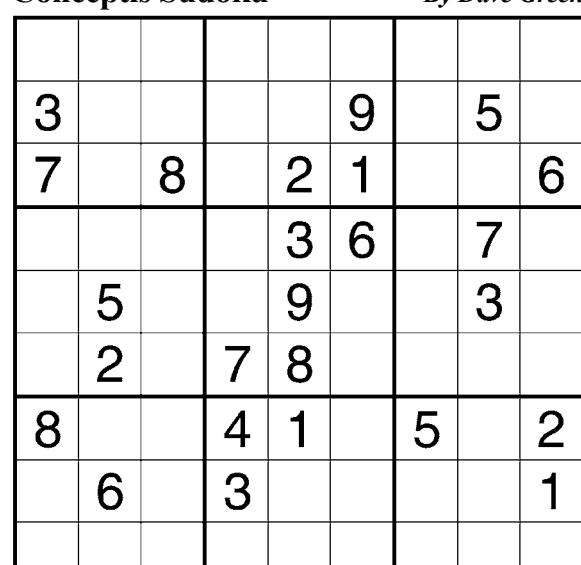
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	1	6	8	5	3	9	2
5	2	8	3	4	9	1	6	7
3	6	9	7	2	1	4	5	8
8	9	3	2	1	7	6	4	5
6	5	2	4	9	8	7	1	3
1	7	4	5	6	3	8	2	9
4	8	6	9	3	2	5	7	1
2	3	5	1	7	4	9	8	6
9	1	7	8	5	6	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS

E	H	P	O	E	R	U	S	S	R	P	M	S	O
T	D	Y	R	D	T	T	V	E	S	S	L	N	P
A	E	I	D	O	O	A	M	U	I	L	E	H	O
R	F	N	X	R	P	R	N	R	E	T	A	W	I
O	R	L	A	O	O	A	L	K	E	N	E	S	I
P	E	G	R	T	I	C	N	E	E	R	D	U	S
A	E	I	Y	C	U	D	A	E	S	R	T	S	I
V	Z	I	Y	T	E	B	N	R	C	S	S	T	M
E	I	H	G	N	I	L	I	O	B	U	O	E	E
T	N	A	R	N	R	S	S	V	B	O	C	E	U
H	G	Z	E	E	I	D	N	I	R	N	L	L	T
A	L	A	N	L	I	T	L	E	U	L	A	S	S
N	E	R	E	L	A	E	I	O	D	S	U	C	V
E	U	D	O	L	I	S	S	O	F	S	E	M	O
B	F	S	U	L	F	I	D	N	I	C	K	E	L

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4/11

Alkene, Boiling, Burner, Butane, Carbon Dioxide, Celsius, Cost, Density, Distillation, Dome, Dust, Emissions, Energy, Ethane, Evaporate, Fossil, Freezing, Fuel, Hazards, Helium, Hydrocarbons, Ignition, Nickel, Odorless, Power, Pressure, Propane, Sale, Solids, Source, Steel, Storage, Sulfide, Tankers, Value, Vaporize, Vessel, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Shapes

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Angels rookie pitcher Adenhart dies in car crash



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two others were killed by a suspected drunk driver Thursday, a shocking end to the life of a rookie who had overcome major elbow surgery to realize his big league dreams.

The accident in neighboring Fullerton occurred hours after the 22-year-old pitcher made his season debut with his father in the stands, throwing six scoreless innings against the Oakland Athletics. The Angels ultimately lost the game, 6-4.

The team postponed Thursday night's game with Oakland, the final one of their season-opening series.

"It is a tragedy that will never be forgotten," manager Mike Scioscia said at an Angel Stadium news conference.

Adenhart's father, Jim, a retired Secret Service agent, walked onto the field in the empty stadium Thursday and spent several moments alone on the pitcher's mound. Wearing a red sweatshirt, the Angels' color, he briefly covered his eyes with one hand.

Jim Adenhart also spoke during a closed-door meeting of players and team officials.

"He just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity, thank you for raising his kid in minor league ball on up through the system in the Angels' organization," outfielder Torii Hunter said.

Nick Adenhart was a passenger in a silver Mitsubishi Eclipse that was broadsided in an intersection about 12:30 a.m. by a minivan that apparently ran a red light, police said.

The impact spun around both vehicles, and one then struck another car but that driver was not hurt, police said.

The minivan driver fled the crash on foot and was captured about 30 minutes later. Police identified him as Andrew Thomas Gallo, 22, of Riverside, and said he had a suspended license because of a previous drunken driving conviction.

Preliminary results indicated Gallo's blood-alcohol level was "substantially over the legal limit" of .08 percent, police Lt. Kevin Hamilton said.

Gallo was interviewed by investigators before he was booked in jail Thursday on three counts of murder, three counts of vehicular manslaughter, felony hit-and-run and felony driving under the influence of alcohol, Hamilton said. Gallo was being held without bail.

A spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney's office said charges against Gallo likely wouldn't be filed Thursday because police were still investigating. Hamilton said he didn't immediately know if Gallo had an attorney.

Adenhart died in surgery at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center. Henry Nigel Pearson of Manhattan Beach, a 25-year-old passenger in the car, and the driver, 20-year-old Courtney Frances Stewart of Diamond Bar, were pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

Stewart was a student at nearby Cal State Fullerton, where she was a cheerleader in 2007-08.

Another passenger, 24-year-old Jon Wilhite of Manhattan Beach, was in critical condition at UC Irvine Medical Center, although he was expected



Items left by fans in honor of Los Angeles Angels rookie pitcher Nick Adenhart are part of a makeshift memorial in Anaheim, Calif., Thursday, April 9, 2009.

Rangers complete opening sweep of Indians

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Texas Rangers are 3-0 for the first time since 1996.

Marlon Byrd and Ian Kinsler hit long home runs and the Rangers completed their season-opening series sweep, outslugging the Cleveland Indians 12-8 Thursday.

Byrd's homer was a three-run shot that capped a five-run first off Carl Pavano (0-1), making his first start for Cleveland after being a free-agent bust with the Yankees the past four seasons. Byrd matched a career high with five RBIs.

Texas won its first seven games and went on to win its first AL West title in 1996.

Yankees 11, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, A.J. Burnett won in his Yankees debut and fellow newcomers Mark Teixeira and Nick Swisher homered as New York beat Baltimore for its first win this season.

After being outscored 17-10 in their first two games against the Orioles, the Yankees certainly looked like a \$201 million team in the finale of the opening series.

Rays 4, Red Sox 3

At Boston, Matt Garza pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Tampa Bay hit three homers off Daisuke Matsuzaka, and the Rays beat the Boston Red Sox to win their opening three-game series.

Evan Longoria had three hits, including a two-run homer, and Matt Joyce and Shawn Riggans also homered for the defending AL champions.

to survive, a hospital spokesman said. Wilhite played baseball from 2004-08 at Cal State Fullerton.

Royals 2, White Sox 1

A Chicago, Coco Crisp's two-run homer in the ninth inning broke a scoreless tie and the Kansas City Royals held off the Chicago White Sox.

The Royals took two of three from the AL Central champion White Sox in the season-opening series that featured outstanding starting pitching.

Blue Jays 6, Tigers 2

At Toronto, Ricky Romero outpitched Rick Porcello in the first matchup of former first-round draft picks making their major league debuts against each other, and the Toronto Blue Jays rallied to beat the Detroit Tigers for their third win in the opening four-game series.

Marco Scutaro hit a two-run homer, and Aaron Hill and Adam Lind added solo shots off Porcello. Lind went 3-for-4, raising his average to .583.

Mariners 2, Twins 0

At Minneapolis, Jarrod Washburn gave up five hits in eight innings and Brandon Morrow got his first save of the season to lead the Seattle Mariners over the Minnesota Twins.

Washburn (1-0) struck out four with just one walk to get his first victory since July 27. Adrian Beltre and Rob Johnson had RBI singles for the Mariners split the four-game set.

Giants 7, Brewers 1

At San Francisco, Giants reliever Joe Martinez was hit in the head by Mike Cameron's line drive in the ninth inning, but was able to walk off the field in San Francisco's win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Stewart's mother said her daughter and Adenhart had known each other since last season but were not dating as

Martinez was conscious and taken to a hospital for a CT scan and evaluation. His forehead was bloody and his right eye was swollen.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

At St. Louis, Chris Carpenter took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and combined with two relievers on a one-hitter, leading the St. Louis Cardinals over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Carpenter (1-0) didn't allow a hit until Ramon Vazquez singled just under the glove of second baseman Skip Schumaker with two outs in the seventh.

Reds 8, Mets 6

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto had a three-run homer and an RBI single off Oliver Perez, who rarely has such a tough time against a left-handed hitter, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the New York Mets to salvage the final game of their opening series.

Bronson Arroyo (1-0), who'd had trouble with carpal tunnel syndrome, giving up five runs in six innings. Francisco Cordero struck out the side in the ninth, converting Cincinnati's first save opportunity of the season.

Padres 4, Dodgers 3

At San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez's solo homer started a three-run rally in the eighth inning that carried the San Diego Padres over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Closer Heath Bell got out of a jam in the ninth for his second save and the Padres salvaged a split of an opening, four-game series against the defending NL West champion Dodgers.

far as she knew, Hamilton said.

The mother said Adenhart and the others had gone dancing at a club about

a block away from the crash site, although the crash scene appeared to indicate the car was heading in the direction of the club, Hamilton said.

At the ballpark Wednesday night, Adenhart did his job. He scattered seven hits over six scoreless innings and escaped twice after loading the bases in just his fourth major league start.

"I battled early and it felt good to get out of some jams," he said.

Adenhart left with a 4-0 lead before the bullpen gave away what would have been his second major league victory.

During Thursday's closed-door session, "we were just kind of reminiscing about what Nick brought to the team, to the clubhouse," Hunter said as he drove out of the players' parking lot.

"He was a very funny kid and he's going to be missed," he said. "Every time you come to the stadium and you go in that clubhouse, you're looking at Nick Adenhart's locker."

"A lot of these guys in here have never lost anybody in their family that's close to them. I hate that this happened, but this is part of life. This is the real deal," he said. "That's why you've got to kiss your kids, kiss your family every day when you get up in the morning and before you leave for work."

Adenhart had made a slow climb to reach the majors.

He hurt his pitching elbow two weeks before the June 2004 major league draft, when he was projected as a top-five pick out of Williamsport High in Maryland.

But the setback dropped him to the 14th round, where the Angels selected him. He underwent Tommy John surgery—a reconstructive operation on an elbow ligament—later that month and spent most of next four seasons in the minors.

Adenhart struggled with a 9.00 ERA in three starts for the Angels last season, but Scioscia said last month the right-hander had worked hard over the winter and arrived at spring training with a purpose.

He was made the No. 3 starter as the season began this week because of injuries to John Lackey, Ervin Santana and Kelvim Escobar, all of whom are on the disabled list.

Adenhart's father had flown out from Baltimore to attend the game.

"He told his dad that he'd better come here, that something special was going to happen," said Scott Boras, Adenhart's agent, who wept at the stadium news conference.

After the game, "He was so elated ... he felt like a major leaguer," Boras said.

The agent said he spoke with Adenhart and his father, in the clubhouse lobby until about 11:30 p.m. The pitcher and his father were staying at a nearby hotel.

Adenhart's mother, Janet, was flying to Anaheim. His parents were divorced.

"To, I think, focus on his loss is not what we need to do here today, we need to focus on who Nick was and his achievement," Boras said. "His parents really want to communicate to everyone that it's a very difficult moment, but it's also a very special moment because Nick was most accomplished and his life's goal was to be a major league baseball player and he certainly achieved that standard."

No record, but Campbell opens with 65 at Masters



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Chad Campbell kept pouring in birdies, five in a row to start his round, then four straight on the back nine as the gallery kept up its endless cheering on a day of record scoring. There were 354 birdies and six eagles. There were 38 rounds under par, half of those in the 60s. For all those staggering numbers, what made the Masters come to life Thursday was the sweetest of sounds. The roars returned to Augusta National.

"This day was reminiscent of how it used to be," Tiger Woods said. "You could go out there on that back nine and make some birdies, and if you caught some good gusts, you could shoot some pretty good numbers."

No one did that better than Campbell.

The quiet Texan led a charge that dispelled the myth that the thrill was gone from the Masters, getting off to the best start in tournament history before two late bogeys forced him to settle for a 7-under 65 and a one-shot lead over Jim Furyk and Hunter Mahan.

Woods got into the action, too, running off three straight birdies late in the afternoon until his momentum stalled and he shot 70. Even so, it was his first time to break par in the first round of the Masters in seven years.

And more than 11 hours of action-packed golf gave the tournament the excitement it had been missing for most of the decade.

"It is nice to hear some noises again," Sandy Lyle said.

Augusta National cooked up the perfect formula for record scoring—warm sunshine and only a gentle breeze, along with inviting hole locations and greens that were soft and smooth.

"They must have felt sorry for us," Campbell said.

Masters chairman Billy Payne had said this year would be an important test to show that supersizing the golf course—it has been stretched more than 500 yards this decade—would not take the birdies out of the Masters.

The weather was ideal, yes, but the club did its part, too, with greens softer than they have been all week and hole locations that allowed players to attack the pins.

Bryant has 33, Lakers win over Nuggets



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 33 points, Pau Gasol added 27 points and 19 rebounds and the Los Angeles Lakers welcomed back center

Andrew Bynum in a 116-102 win over the Denver Nuggets on Thursday night.

The win was the fifth straight for the Lakers (63-16) and put them half a game behind idle Cleveland Cavaliers (63-15) for the league lead.

Bynum, playing in his first game since tearing the medial collateral ligament in his right knee on Jan. 31, had 16 points and seven rebounds in 21 minutes.

Wearing a black brace on the knee, Bynum was greeted with cheers when his name was announced in the starting lineup. Another loud eruption came when the Lakers' announcer asked fans to welcome back the center.

Carmelo Anthony had 23 points to



Campbell wasted a chance to make major championship history with his incredible opening round.

No one had ever started a Masters with five straight birdies, and Campbell added to that with four straight birdies on the back nine, including an 8-iron that narrowly cleared the bunker at the par-3 12th and settled 5 feet away. Then there was a beautiful pitch to a foot on the 15th that put him at 9 under for the round.

The course record at Augusta National is 63. No one has ever shot lower in any major. Campbell could not help but think of the record, and the gallery was there to remind him.

"They were yelling everything," Campbell said. "You know, 'One more. Get to 10. 63.' I heard it all. It was good, though."

But he pulled his tee shot on the 17th into the trees and made bogey, then three-putted for a bogey from 40 feet on the 18th. Even so, it was the best opening-round score at Augusta since Chris DiMarco had a 65 in 2001.

Furyk putted for birdie on every hole and was the only player without a bogey on his card.

"That doesn't happen very often here," he said.

Woods was late to the party, not making a birdie until the ninth hole and cringing as so many birdie putts burned the edge. But he came to life with a two-putt birdie on the 13th, then a 20-foot birdie up the slope on the 14th, and another two-putt birdie from just off the back of the green on the par-5 15th.

"You could tell the way guys were tearing the place apart," Woods said. "You could definitely go get it."

He was not the least bit concerned dropping a shot at the end of his day, leaving him five shots behind. Woods has never broken 70 in the first round, yet he still has four green jackets.

And as fun as it was Thursday, no one is sure what to expect over the next three days.

"At some stage, you really expect to be tested right to the end of your limits," Harrington said. "And sometimes, the last nine holes, they set the golf course up easy. But it's somewhere between now and then, and I think you'll find that we will be maybe a tougher wind and a tougher day."

Chad Campbell follows his ball out of a bunker on the 18th hole during the first round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., Thursday, April 9, 2009.

The 38 rounds under par—and the 19 rounds in the 60s—both set a Masters record for the first round.

Greg Norman played for the first time since 2002, and the 54-year-old Shark was shocked by all the changes. Even more shocking was that he shot a 70 and was mildly disappointed.

"Really could have shot a nice, mid-60s score today," Norman said. "I'm not complaining."

The average score was 72.25, nearly two shots easier than a year ago and the lowest since it was 72.06 in 1992.

"You could tell the way guys were tearing the place apart that ... you could definitely go get it," Woods said.

The four-time Masters champion figured that out even before he got to the back nine. If the cheers weren't enough, all he had to do was look at the white leaderboards that were filled with red numbers.

Larry Mize, in his rookie year on the Champions Tour, became only the second

player over 50 to shoot a 67. The other was Jack Nicklaus, who did it twice.

Shingo Katayama also had a 67, while the group at 68 included 48-year-old Kenny Perry, former Masters champion Mike Weir, Sean O'Hair and former U.S. Open champion Angel Cabrera.

British Open and PGA champion Padraig Harrington opened with a 69, a strong start in his bid to join Woods and Ben Hogan as the only players to win three successive majors.

The Irishman once said Augusta National was among the few courses that could control the scores by how the course was set up, and it was so perfect that he wondered whether the club had more power than he imagined.

"They got a nice, sunny day with no wind," he said. "Do they have control over that?"

The course was only 10 yards shorter than last year, at least according to the scorecard, but the tees were moved for-

ward on several holes, and the pins were in generous spots, where the ball could easily funnel down a slope near the cup.

"It is interesting for us and it is exciting for us when there is a buzz like that out there," Harrington said. "But definitely, when you hear a lot of cheers around, it makes you a little bit more anxious to be part of that, just a little more urgency to make sure you are making birdies, too."

That's what made Phil Mickelson so disgusted.

The two-time Masters champion, who has a chance to go to No. 1 in the world with a victory, failed to take advantage of the easier hole locations and made only two birdies in his round of 73.

"I drove it terrible," Mickelson said. "I played terrible."

A year ago, shooting a 73 would have been a relief on a course that players felt had become more like a U.S. Open. On a day like this, and a course like this, it felt like an opportunity wasted.

ond quarter, but subbed his starters back in at the 5:50 mark in an attempt to slow the Nuggets down.

They provided a spark for a few minutes before Denver went on a 12-4 run behind a pair of 3s from Smith, one a buzzer-beater that tied the game at 56 going into halftime.

Rockets 115, Kings 98

At Sacramento, Calif., Ron Artest scored 26 points and the Rockets used a big third quarter to beat the Sacramento Kings, their third straight win and giving Houston the top spot in the Southwest Division.

Shannon Brown hit a wide-open 3-pointer to start it and Gasol and Bryant combined to add 11 points in the spurt. Bryant's 3 with 1:39 remaining gave the Lakers a 13-point lead.

While most of the focus was on Bynum's return, it was Gasol who got the Lakers going. He was one rebound shy of a double-double by the end of the first quarter and had six points as part of an 8-0 run that gave Los Angeles a 32-21 lead.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson turned the game over to his bench in the sec-

rookie Jason Thompson added 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The Kings dropped their sixth straight and eighth in nine games. With the NBA's worst record at 16-62, Sacramento is on track to have its worst finish in franchise history.

Bulls 113, 76ers 99

At Chicago, Ben Gordon and Tyrus Thomas each scored 24 points, and the Bulls reduced their magic number to one over Charlotte and moved a half game ahead of Detroit in the East.

Thomas set a season-high for points while converting a career-best 14 of 14 free throws. He scored 10 points in the third quarter and Gordon added seven as the Bulls turned a halftime tie into an 82-72 lead before pulling away for their 13th home win in 14 games.

The loss was the third straight for sixth-place Philadelphia, which trails Miami by a game and leads Chicago by just 1 1/2. Andre Miller scored 20 points for the 76ers, none in the fourth quarter, while Andre Iguodala added 19.

Angels rookie pitcher Adenhart dies in car crash



Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two others were killed by a suspected drunk driver Thursday, a shocking end to the life of a rookie who had overcome major elbow surgery to realize his big league dreams.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rabauliman leads Juniors in batting

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

 Henry Rabauliman of the Patriots is currently the leader in batting average in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball.

As of March 29, Rabauliman averaged .541 based on 21 times or more at-bat. He hit 20 of 37.

Five of Rabauliman's other teammates landed in the Top 15.

Jared Sablan is in sixth place with .441 (15-for-34), Chris Mizer is eighth with .406 (13-for-32), Brian Camacho is ninth (.400, 14-for-35), Jeremy Rabauliman at 10th (.385, 15-for-39), and Alan Aguon at 14th (.353, 12-for-34).

The Patriots are currently on top of the division standings with 10 wins and a lone loss.

Two players from Ol'Aces' lineup, Frankie Camacho and Lamarc Iguel, are in second and third positions with .538 (14-for-26) and .531 (17-for-32) clips.

The Red Sox's A.J. Lizama Jr. and homerun leader Ricardo Dela Cruz of Lion Heart are tied at fourth to fifth with their similar averages of .464 after both players hit 13-for-28 at-bat.

Dela Cruz has the most homeruns with two.

Another Lion Heart, Auther Jебehn, is in seventh with a .417 average (10-for-24).

Poland Masaharu of the Fielders is at the 11th spot with his .385 (10-for-26), Clayton Aguon of the Red Sox at 12th with .370 (10-for-27), Patrick Tenorio of the Fielders at 13th with .357 (10-for-28) and Ray Aguon of Lion Heart at 15th with .333 (7-for-21).

Frankie Camacho is the leader in pitching with an earned run average of 1.08, after allowing two earned runs in

See RABAULIMAN on Page 27



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Patriots pitcher Jeremy Rabauliman, seen here batting, is the current leader in strikeouts in the Junior League with 33.



CNMI junior tennis rankings released

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association has released the 2008-2009 rankings in the junior division, giving the public a preview of the composition of the CNMI National Junior Team that will compete in a regional tournament in June.

In the boys' 18-and-under division, Woo Suk Chang leads 14 other players with his 2,250 ranking points. Not far behind is Tinian's Benjie Decena, who has earned 2,000.

Decena could have overtaken Chang, but the former competed only in two of NMITA's three events. Chang joined all three events. Nathan Nutting is currently in third with 1,500 points, followed by Sung Hoon Ham (1,200), James Camacho (1,000), Andy Nutting (850), Joseph Jang (650), Calvin Yang (500), Russell Buenaventura (500), Bradley Brostrom (400), Min Seok Kim (300), Ji Hoon Ham (250), Sung Jin Kim (200), Min Suk Kim (200), and R.J. Aquino (150).

NMITA will be holding one more tournament before releasing the final rankings and selecting the members of the CNMI Junior Team. The CNMI

Tammy Ackerman, seen here serving against Emily Jones during their title match in the PIC netfest last week, is currently on top of the girls' 10-and-under division rankings.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Vine to return to XTERRA Saipan after 7 years

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Canadian pro Mike Vine will be returning to the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship for the first time since winning the inaugural event seven years ago.

Vine is expected to arrive on Mon-



day in time for the event slated on April 18. He will be competing against a strong field of pro triathletes that includes Sam Gardner and Jim McConnel of Great Britain, Andrew Noble of Australia, Takahiro Osa-

gawa and Taro Shirato of Japan.

Vine won the 2008 U.S. XTERRA Championships last year.

Noble is a former World Duathlon champion and has won XTERRA Saipan in 2008.

Ogasawara and Shirato are currently the toughest racers in Japan with the

See VINE on Page 27



Oceania caging logo unveiled

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The official logo for the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament is out, highlighting the colors of host CNMI.

Designed by Gabriel White of Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the logo features a white five-pointed star superimposed on the gray silhouette of a latte stone in the center and a mwari (the local name for wreath) surrounding a basketball. These images are at the upper por-

tion of the logo, while the lower part has FIBA Oceania's colors.

The logo is a beautiful reflection of the traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the modern face of basketball in Oceania, according to a news release from BANMI.

The CNMI will be hosting the Oceania caging from June 20 to 28 with competitions for both the men's and women's divisions.

Besides the CNMI, seven other FIBA Oceania members will be sending their

See OCEANIA on Page 27

No record, but Campbell opens with 65 at Masters

Chad Campbell kept pouring in birdies, five in a row to start his round, then four straight on the back nine as the gallery kept up its endless cheering on a day of record scoring.

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